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Bush to call Baker to head campaign

WASHINGTON (AP) — President George Bush will announce within two days that Secretary of State James Baker is leaving the State Department to head the president's re-election campaign, Republican Party sources said Wednesday. Several party leaders said the announcement would come from the White House Thursday or Friday before Mr. Bush leaves Washington to spend the weekend at the presidential retreat at Camp David. The shift has been expected ever since Mr. Bush dropped below Democratic Party challenger Bill Clinton last month in public opinion surveys. Neither Mr. Bush nor Mr. Baker has confirmed it, however. Mr. Baker will serve on the White House staff, rather than going to the Bush-Quayle campaign headquarters in Florida, because of an ethics law that prohibits high-ranking officials from having direct contact with their former agencies for a year if they leave government service, the sources said. Mr. Baker also would be in a better position to oversee the campaign from the White House, said the sources.

Mubarak leaves Libya after Lockerbie talks

CAIRO (AP) — President Hosni Mubarak returned to Egypt Wednesday after two days of meetings in Tripoli with Muammar Qaddafi on Libya's crisis with the West over the bombing of Pan Am 103. Cairo Radio said the discussions included "a full review" of the Lockerbie case but gave no details. On Saturday, the U.N. Security Council is to review an air and arms ban imposed April 15 because Tripoli refused to surrender two suspects in the December 1989 explosion of the Jumbo jet over Lockerbie, Scotland. Mr. Mubarak has mediated between Libya and the West since the crisis began, trying to avoid harsher penalties against the neighbouring country where one million Egyptians live or work. If Tripoli persists in its refusal to surrender the two alleged intelligence agents, the Security Council could decide at Saturday's meeting to stiffen the penalties. It could add economic sanctions or even an embargo on oil exports, which account for 95 per cent of Libya's foreign earnings. But Western diplomats in Tripoli said Tuesday they do not expect Libya to hand over the men but believe the Security Council will maintain the sanctions at current levels for a few more months.

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Assad meets Kuwaiti foreign minister

DAMASCUS (R) — Syrian President Hafez Al Assad had talks on Wednesday with Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Salem Sabah Al Salem on the Gulf situation, officials and diplomats said. Sheikh Salem, who arrived on Tuesday, told reporters he was carrying a message to Mr. Assad from Kuwaiti Emir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah. He said the talks would deal with Gulf security after Iraq's renewed claims on Kuwait. Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa attended the discussions.

Deadlock weakens Lebanese pound

BEIRUT (R) — The ailing Lebanese pound slumped into another record low on Wednesday as political tension increased over holding the first general elections in 20 years. The central bank said the pound closed at 2,740.277 down by 7.44 per cent from Tuesday's close of 2,550. Bankers said there was no interest in bank activity but the domestic demand on the dollar was high with little supply. The government of President Elias Hrawi held a cabinet meeting on Wednesday and asked the central bank to intervene in the market to sell dollars to stop the deterioration of the Lebanese pound. The central bank halted its intervention last February after spending some \$500 million from its \$1.25 billion foreign currency reserves.

Jerusalem Post sets new editor

TEL AVIV (AP) — David Bar-Ilan, editorial editor of the Jerusalem Post, has been named the daily's editor-in-chief, the newspaper announced Wednesday. Mr. Bar-Ilan, 62, replaces David Gross, 69, who held the post for two-and-a-half years, the newspaper said. Mr. Bar-Ilan will take over on Aug. 16, and Mr. Gross will remain as consulting editor. Mr. Bar-Ilan, a concert pianist for 50 years, joined the Jerusalem Post in February 1990 as editorial editor. He also wrote a weekly column called "Eye on the Media" which criticised alleged anti-Israel bias in the foreign and Israeli media.

High-ranking Polisario leader defects to Morocco

RABAT (AP) — A leader of the Polisario guerrilla movement has defected to Morocco, saying Wednesday that the long struggle to gain independence for the Western Sahara "is going in circles and everybody knows it." Brahim Hakim, former foreign minister of Arab Saharan republic, arrived at the Moroccan capital Tuesday, responding to King Hassan II's standing invitation to Polisario members to quit a losing battle. The defection came as King Hassan named a caretaker government to run Morocco until legislative elections in September. Residents of the disputed Western Sahara will vote for the first time, de facto confirmation of Morocco's defeat of Polisario (see page 2). "Any reflective person worried about the interests of the Saharan people has to understand the consequences of what's happening," Mr. Hakim said. "We're going in circles and everybody knows it."

Six killed in southeast Turkey

ANKARA (R) — Six people have died in clashes with rebel Kurds in southeastern Turkey, officials said on Wednesday. A civilian village guard, a woman and a man were killed in a clash with guerrillas of the separatist Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) who attacked Tekevir Hamlet in Siirt province on Tuesday night, they said. A Turkish non-commissioned officer and a village guard died in a clash with PKK rebels near Guroymak, a town in Bitlis province, on the same night. Another village guard died in an overnight PKK on Dower, a village in Diyarbakir province, security sources said. Officials in Diyarbakir said a military border patrol had shot dead four men trying to cross from Iraqi territory when they did not heed a call to halt on Sunday.

King: Decisions on future rest with people

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein has said that any future union between the Hashemite Kingdom and an independent Palestinian state would be up to "future generations to decide." Speaking on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of his accession to the Throne, the King told German television ZDF that any plan for a confederation between Jordan and the Palestinians was "put on the shelf" for now. "There is no plan of a confederation or federation; all is shelved and is contingent on what happens in the future," said the King, referring to the Middle East peace process. "As far as future relations are concerned, we would like to keep that for future generations to determine once the Palestinians have secured their legitimate rights on their soil," said the King.

Describing Jordanians and Palestinians as peoples "members of one family," King Hussein said: "We are closer to Palestine

and the Palestinian cause than to any other in this world."

Paying tribute to the growing strength and authority of the three estates of power in Jordan, the King said: "The head of state heads the three elements of power — the administrative, the legislative and the judiciary. We have a parliamentary democracy and a National Charter which was devised by the people of Jordan."

"My powers are not absolute," he said. "My role here is that of the older brother, maybe now as a father figure, to the people of Jordan."

"The role of a monarch, at this stage, is just to guide and to ensure that in the future this country can be a model democracy," he added.

The King called on leaders to put aside the many differences which have torn the Arab World apart since the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in August 1990.

Urging the Arab World to reunite and indicating that without change of policies there would be no progress, His Majesty said: "Hopefully in the immediate future there will be a

reassessment of their positions and hopefully the interests of the people, not the regimes, will be paramount to all, so we can move ahead again."

The King stressed that change towards more democratic political systems would be beneficial internally and on an inter-Arab level. "We like to think that we are members of an Arab family that encompasses all Arabs."

King Hussein dismissed any notion that any bans of any political group would be imposed in Jordan.

"We have worked hard on creating this democracy and all Jordanians will participate regardless of their origins," he said. "Islam has been much misunderstood."

The King that living up to his responsibilities had been the greatest challenge of his 40 years or reign, adding: "The Jordanian people are walking with their heads held high and enjoying democracy, pluralism, human rights and power sharing and setting a good example to others in this region and the world."

Reports conflict over Abul Abbas

BEIRUT (AP) — A mysterious statement was released in Beirut Wednesday saying that Mohammad Abbas (Abul Abbas), leader of the Palestine Liberation Front (PLF) alleged mastermind of the 1985 Achille Lauro cruise ship hijacking, had been arrested in Iraq.

But the claim was quickly denied by several sources, including the group that was alleged to have made it. One source said it may have a ploy to draw Abul Abbas out of three months of hiding.

The PLF representative in Lebanon, Nazem Al Youssef, told the Associated Press in the southern port city of Sidon:

"We didn't issue a statement. The leader is free and has not been arrested."

He refused to say whether Abul Abbas was in Iraq or not.

Mr. Youssef accused the rival PLF faction of the late Talat Yacoub, which is supported by Syria, of issuing the statement.

There have been recent reports in Arab newspapers of quarrels over finances in the organisation, which is believed to have received millions of dollars from Iraq.

The PLF has offices in Baghdad and Tunis, as well as Lebanon and other Arab countries. The Damascus-based wing of

(Continued on page 5)

Iraqi leader promises economic improvement

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein Wednesday promised major efforts to improve the country's economy and warned that corrupt officials would be dealt with harshly, meaning they could be executed.

In a speech broadcast on radio and television, President Saddam criticised the performance of his ministers, who have been wrestling with ways to rescue an economy ravaged by U.N. embargo. He promised that "all irresponsible government officials will be dealt with the same way we dealt with corrupted businessmen."

Reports surfaced last month that 42 merchants had been executed in Baghdad after being accused of profiteering.

"We in the leadership will not hesitate to do what is required by responsibility, justice and law," President Saddam said in the speech, which was read by an announcer.

President Saddam said he would appoint Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz to head a special committee to deal with the economy.

He referred to the "corruption of a minority of people" and said "we want the people of Iraq to be one in meeting the dilemma that we are all facing."

"The behaviour of these people runs counter to the slogans of

the mother of all battles," President Saddam said in a reference to the Gulf war that expelled Iraqi forces from Kuwait in February 1991.

(Continued on page 5)

Voters 'apathetic' on by-elections

By Mariam M. Shahin Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The number of people who picked up their voting cards for the Aug. 18 by-elections in the Fourth and Sixth districts of Amman before the Aug. 10 deadline has disappointed officials who were expecting voters to show a greater interest in the polls than they did during the 1989 elections.

Only 53 per cent of the eligible voters in the Fourth District and 76 per cent in the Sixth District have collected their voting cards — an essential document without which no one can vote, officials told the Jordan Times Wednesday.

"It is a total surprise," said a senior Interior Ministry official. "We thought that people would be taking voting more seriously this time than they in 1989; but the figures indicate otherwise."

The official said that 93 per cent of the eligible voters in the Fourth District and 87 per cent in the Sixth District had collected their cards for the November 1989 general elections.

The Aug. 18 elections are to fill two seats in the Lower House of Parliament left vacant by the death of Minister

Al Hadid (Fourth District) and Ahmad Qatish Al Azzideh (Sixth District).

The apparent decline in voter interest was expected by some observers.

"This is a relatively unimportant election because whoever gets elected will serve only until the end of the summer of 1993, because of the elections in November," one observer pointed out.

The low registration voter turnout is not "alarming," he said.

Analysts believe that the low turnout will work in favour of the Muslim Brotherhood candidate Dr. Hani Al Tahrawi, in the Fourth District, who is said to have both Islamist and tribal support in his hometown area of Sahab. Dr. Tahrawi's main challenger is Anwar Al Hadid who, political observers say, will have to have very strong backing from "a coalition of tribes and non-Islamist elements" to defeat the Brotherhood candidate.

Political observers in the Fourth District believe that if the five other candidates who are running on mainly tribal and pro-establishment tickets do not withdraw from the race, the votes that Mr. Hadid is likely to get will be divided among the six non-Islamist

candidates, thus boosting the chances of the Brotherhood candidate.

"The split-up in votes among his opponents will enable Dr. Tahrawi to win the race," predicted one observer in Qweismeh.

In Madaba, headquarters of the Sixth District, tables appear to have been turned in favour of a liberal candidate at the expense of the Brotherhood.

Almost all of the 9,000 registered voters from the Bani Hamida tribe have picked up their cards, dramatically boosting the fortunes of Abdul Hafith Shakhanbeh, the only member of the tribe in the running and up until last week considered to be the "least likely" of the three candidates to win the race.

Mr. Shakhanbeh now seems to have "a real chance" in the contest, an observer said.

Mr. Shakhanbeh is considered a liberal politician who has been closer to the left throughout his career.

The two other candidates in the district, the Muslim Brotherhood's Mohammad Khreibat and former government official Fawaz Abu Ghazem, are both members of

(Continued on page 5)



His Majesty King Hussein, accompanied by Public Security Department Chief Major-General Fadel Ali Fheid, inspects a contingent of Jordanian

security forces prior to its departure for peacekeeping operations in Cambodia (photo by Youssef Al Allam)

Jordan sends peacekeepers to Cambodia

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan Wednesday bade farewell to another batch of security forces joining the U.N. peacekeeping team. His Majesty King Hussein led Jordanian officials to see the troops off on their new mission.

The batch, the second to be sent abroad this month, headed for Cambodia to join other U.N. troops stationed there following forces sent to Croatia Aug. 9.

There are already young Jordanians serving with the U.N.

peacekeeping forces in Namibia, Somalia and Yugoslavia, said King Hussein in a statement to reporters following a farewell ceremony.

Participation by thousands of young Jordanians in peacekeeping efforts can only manifest the continuation of the humanitarian role played by this country which desires to help establish peace for all people around the world, noted the King. He expressed hope that Jordanian troops will shoulder their responsibilities to

the best of their capabilities.

The first batch of 500 troops were sent by sea to war-torn Bosnia-Herzegovina last April. On Aug. 9 Jordan sent another force to back peacekeeping in the same region.

Police Security Department (PSD) Inspector General Mohammad Bsoul spoke at the outset of the farewell, paying tribute to the King for his continued effort to promote the role of Jordanian security forces as ready for any mission.

Jordan awaits details of U.S.-Israel agreement

AMMAN (Agencies) — The government on Wednesday reacted cautiously to U.S. moves to grant Israel \$10 billion in loan guarantees and said that it was waiting for more clarifications.

"We have to wait and see the details of the terms of the deal," Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber told reporters.

After two days of talks with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, U.S. President George Bush announced on Tuesday that he backs granting Israel the loans.

"We have to look at all aspects of the negotiations that went on between them before we pass a judgement," Dr. Abu Jaber said.

On whether the measure would have an impact on the Middle East peace process, Dr. Abu Jaber said: "There is no question that granting Israel the loan guarantees changes the situation."

Dr. Abu Jaber said that U.S. (Continued on page 5)

42 deputies want to sue Rifai for libel

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A group of 42 members of the Lower House of Parliament Wednesday presented a motion to House Speaker Abdul Latif Arabiyat suggesting that the House sue former Prime Minister Zeid Rifai for what they called slander and defamation levelled against them.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the motion was presented during Wednesday House session, during which several articles of the press and publication draft law were debated (see page 3).

Parliament sources told the Jordan Times that almost all those deputies who voted for indicting Mr. Rifai for "corruption" signed last week had signed the new motion, which was ready three days ago but was presented only Wednesday.

The House has indicted former Public Works Minister Mahmoud Hawamdeh for alleged corruption and rejected similar motions against Mr. Rifai and former Finance Minister Hanna Odeh.

Following the House's decision on the indictment, Mr. Rifai issued a statement accusing Parliament members of levelling false charges against him.

The Parliament source told the Jordan Times that Mr. Rifai's statement was tantamount to accusing Parliament members of being working against their own

(Continued on page 5)

Rabin says U.S. loan guarantees secured despite disagreements

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said on Wednesday he won U.S. President George Bush's approval of \$10 billion in loan guarantees for Israel despite differences over Jewish settlement of the occupied territories.

He told Israeli radio stations while in the United States that he and Mr. Bush spent a long time reaching agreement despite their differences on the issue.

Asked if Mr. Bush accepted his distinction between security and political settlements, Mr. Rabin replied: "Wisdom lies in how to achieve what you want, in this instance the guarantees, without causing a confrontation between two contrary positions."

"Therefore it took a lot of

time... because the basis is not some written document between us."

"The basis is an understanding of the positions of the two sides and how nonetheless, despite here and there differences of opinion, to get the \$10 billion," he said.

Mr. Rabin has vowed to curb what he terms "political" settlement but said "security" settlement will continue. Washington has labelled all settlement of occupied lands an obstacle to peace.

Mr. Bush urged Congress on Tuesday to approve the guarantees swiftly after his talks with Mr. Rabin at his Kennebunkport holiday home restored a glow to ties strained by the refusal of

former Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir to curb settlements.

Mr. Rabin halted the building of some 6,000 planned houses for Jews in the West Bank and Gaza Strip on taking office in July, but is allowing the completion of 10,000 houses already begun.

The Israeli media hailed Mr. Rabin's achievement. The centrist Yedioth Ahronoth, Israel's largest circulation daily, in an editorial headlined "Salute to Rabin," said he had managed to avoid tough U.S. conditions.

"The high security for them (the guarantees), deductions for past investments in the (occupied) territories and the obligation to massively use them in the

(Continued on page 5)

Israel 'not to buy Arab Jerusalem houses'

TEL AVIV (AP) — The housing ministry has suspended the use of government funds for buying property for Jewish settlers in Arab East Jerusalem, a ministry statement confirmed Wednesday.

The ministry will make a final recommendation to the cabinet after reviewing how much money previous governments gave to settlement projects, directly or indirectly, the statement said.

If made permanent, the decision could be seen as a goodwill gesture towards the Palestinians in the occupied territories with whom Israel will renew peace talks in Washington on Aug. 24.

It would also reverse the policy of the previous government of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir which tried to settle as many Jews

as possible in Arab Jerusalem.

The new government headed by Yitzhak Rabin also pledged that Jerusalem would remain under Israel's "sovereignty." But Mr. Rabin's housing minister, Benjamin Ben-Eliezer, said he opposes settling in densely populated Arab areas because it would create unnecessary tensions between Arabs and Jews.

Some 150,000 Arabs and 370,000 Jews live in Jerusalem. About half of the Jews live in suburbs encircling East Jerusalem.

The United States considers East Jerusalem occupied land. However, it says the city must not be divided again and that its future must be determined in negotiations.

According to one plan considered by the housing ministry, the government would stop buying property, but would still pay private security firms to protect Jews living in Arab neighbourhoods, Israel Radio reported Wednesday.

The government would continue to permit Jewish settlers to buy Arab property privately, the radio said.

The previous housing minister, Ariel Sharon, reportedly budgeted millions of dollars a year for East Jerusalem settlement projects, taking the money from a number of special funds.

Last year, Mr. Sharon took five million shekels (\$2.1 million) (Continued on page 5)

Concern raised over safety of students in Russia

By Elia Nasrallah Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A rise in the number of dead or murdered students in Russia in the past few months has caused deep concern in Jordan about the fate of some 4,000 Jordanians studying in the former Soviet Union.

The latest reported case was that of Omran Falah Al Shibli Al Utom, who was reported by the Jordanian embassy in Moscow to have been murdered on Aug. 8, 1992.

A Jordanian Foreign Ministry official said that over the past 50 days at least five Jordanian students were reported to have died in Russia, some of them killed and some drowned. The latest casualty, Mr. Utom, was killed in a town in Siberia while on his way home in the evening, the official said.

He said that the occupants of the same car with Mr. Utom attacked the deceased and killed him, and investigations were continuing into the affair.

The ministry official, who asked not to be identified, quoted the Jordanian embassy in Moscow as saying that it was unsafe for anyone to venture out in Moscow and other towns after dark for fear of being attacked by gangs of robbers and murderers.

The official said that poverty, lack of sufficient security for foreigners and the soaring cost of living in general appeared to be the motives behind the rise in crime.

However, he said, some reported deaths could have occurred due to natural causes or accidents.

An official at the Ministry of Higher Education echoed the Foreign Ministry official's views about the general security situation in Russian cities and the danger facing foreign students.

He said the Ministry of Higher Education this year sent no scholarship to Russia simply because the now independent ex-Soviet

Kabul shelling eases; guerrillas under attack

ISLAMABAD (R) — A dissident Afghan Mujahadeen group eased its rocket bombardment of Kabul on Wednesday afternoon when its forces came under heavy ground and air attack from pro-government forces, Mujahadeen sources said.

The bombardment slowed and residents emerged cautiously onto the rubble-strewn streets for the first time since the blistering rocket assault began on Monday, the sources said by telephone from the Pakistani border town of Peshawar.

Fighters of the hardline Hezbe-Islami battled troops loyal to the three-month-old Islamic government in the east of the capital around the military university overnight and resumed heavy rocket and artillery fire at dawn, the sources said.

At least 500 people have been killed and more than 1,100 injured in the barrage, the Hezbe-Islami Islamic Press said in a report received in Islamabad.

"People have started moving about again," one source said.

There had been little traffic on the streets except for tanks and armoured vehicles since the Hezbe bombardment began.

The fighting has reduced parts of the city of mainly mud-built houses to rubble and seriously disrupted water supplies as well as the telephone system, the sources said.

Thousands were fleeing the city and the price of a bus ticket to the Pakistan border has soared from 2,000 afghanis to 20,000 afghanis (\$6 to \$60), said one Afghan who made the trip this week.

Rockets fell on the presidential palace and government ministries including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, they said. "Rocket-firing began again this morning and one rocket landed near the German embassy," one source said.

The government said Hezbe had destroyed planes and radio and television transmitters and damaged the Defence Ministry, a major target of the dissidents.

This week's fighting was among the bloodiest since the start of the Afghan civil war 14 years ago.

Iraq says food lifeline from Jordan is down

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq says a crackdown against profiteering has halved food imports from Jordan, its main lifeline to the outside world.

Trade Minister Mohammad Mehdi Saleh told a news conference on Tuesday a cut in imports from Jordan and Turkey was compounding the effects of U.N. sanctions that were causing widespread shortages of food, medicine and other essentials.

Mr. Saleh sidestepped confirming whether merchants had been executed since the crackdown began, but he indicated some had been by saying the penalty for withholding food from markets was death.

Diplomats said at least 42 merchants were executed in late July and early August after being accused of profiteering. About 550 other traders were rounded up across

the country. "The law is clear for... a few people provoke the law so the law is adopted against them," the minister said.

Asked whether food imports from Jordan, Iraq's main lifeline, had fallen because traders feared being caught in the crackdown, Mr. Saleh said:

"The trade of food has not stopped... but the scale is definitely lower than it used to be before." He said food supplies from Jordan had declined by about 50 per cent for about a week but were now rising.

"The (Iraqi) law issued in the first week (after) the adoption of sanctions is that for any person who keeps food away from the market and monopolises... the punishment is execution."

Asked whether the government planned to reassure merchants, Mr. Saleh said: "I have

met them four times so far (since the crackdown) and there is no fear."

Mr. Saleh said no food was entering Iraq from Syria. Iran sold some to Kurdish rebels in northern Iraq for political purposes but all food bought by the government came in through Turkey and Jordan.

Sanctions imposed after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait two years ago exempt food and medicine but the government says it cannot afford to buy enough with most assets abroad frozen.

The minister said food prices in Iraq had soared by between 3,000 and 4,000 per cent since sanctions were imposed in August, 1990.

Mr. Saleh said no trucks had reached northern Iraq from Turkey for the last 20 days because of a conflict between Iraqi Kurds and Turkish Kurds. "It is still

closed up to this day," he said.

This caused a shortage of flour, which is imported from Turkey, he said. Rice and sugar are normally trucked in from Jordan.

Reports from Paris late on Tuesday said two to five cargoes of white sugar on route to Iraq via Aqaba went to Saudi Arabia and the Commonwealth of Independent States because of the Iraqi crackdown.

Several cargoes of sugar bought privately by Iraqi merchants and heading for Baghdad were left floating in the area, for lack of buyers, after the reported executions, traders said.

Traffic in Jordan's Zarga Duty Free Zone, the source of a huge portion of the supplies of humanitarian goods Iraq is allowed, has almost come to a standstill.

U.N. clinches accord on guards for Somalia

NAIROBI (R) — The United Nations has reached an outline agreement with Mogadishu warlord General Mohammed Farah Aided for 500 armed U.N. personnel to guard the port in the Somali capital and escort food supplies to starving people, authoritative U.N. sources said on Wednesday.

The sources told Reuters that the U.N. special representative for Somalia, Mohammed Sahnoun, was at General Aided's headquarters at Bardera, 330 kilometres west of Mogadishu, to sign a formal agreement.

"Sahnoun got agreement in principle on Monday and is getting the formal papers signed at the moment," one senior U.N. source told Reuters.

The sources said U.N. armed guards would secure the port, currently controlled by Aided fighters who demand money and often loot shipments, and escort convoys to feeding centres.

"The guards will have to assist also in the transport of food convoys. At first, Aided wanted to try and restrict them to the

port, but he was in a no-win situation," said another U.N. source.

Gen. Aided has strongly opposed U.N. military intervention in Somalia, where hundreds are dying each day, for fear it would give a new lease of life to his main rival, self-styled President Ali Mahdi Mohammad.

A feud between the two men killed or maimed at least 30,000 people until the U.N. brokered a shaky ceasefire a few months ago. Gen. Aided controls some 60 per cent of the shattered capital.

The sources said Mr. Sahnoun planned to disclose more details of the accord at a news conference in Nairobi later on Wednesday.

They said they had no idea when the first troops might arrive in Somalia, where some two thirds of the seven million people are at risk of starving to death but said Mr. Sahnoun wanted them "as quickly as possible."

"There is no accommodation so they will probably have to stay on board a naval vessel," said one source.

Naming of new government in Rabat seen to hit hope for Sahara plebiscite

RABAT (AP) — A new government headed by businessman Mohammad Karim Lamrani as prime minister was named Tuesday, freeing up cabinet members to campaign for next month's election for a new parliament.

King Hassan II named Mr. Lamrani to replace Azeddine Laraki who had been premier for the last seven years. There was no ceremony to accompany the announcement.

The election, to be held in the first week of September, appeared to quash hopes for a referendum on independence for the disputed Western Sahara, a huge former Spanish colony that Rabat annexed in 1975 after Spain gave it up.

The United Nations-sponsored referendum, originally scheduled for last January, was to have decided whether residents of Western Sahara, at the north-western corner of Africa, favoured independence.

Critics charge that Morocco, which is seeking to absorb the territory, has flooded Western Sahara with settlers to skew the vote.

The Polisario nationalist move-

ment and non-aligned nations in particular have criticised Rabat for exploiting voter eligibility in the area.

The Marxist Polisario favours independence and has fought an ongoing war with Morocco over the territory.

With next month's election however, voters in Western Sahara would be voting for representatives to sit in parliament in Rabat, seemingly rendering any independence referendum moot.

King Hassan has repeatedly said he would delay the legislative elections until the referendum confirmed the wishes of Western Saharans to be part of Morocco. As late as June, the government-run news agency MAF said the government remained committed to a referendum.

A senior government source said at that time that only local elections would be held in September, with parliamentary voting coming later.

Mr. Lamrani president of a phosphate company, had been a senior economic advisor to the government before his appointment as head of government.

He has served as prime minis-

ter twice before, from 1971-72 and 1983-86. His current administration is a caretaker government of technocrats to serve until the election.

None of the new cabinet members are members of a political party. Their appointment was to allow members of the former government with political affiliations to prepare for the election, during which local assemblies will also be chosen.

Political power is highly centralised in the hands of the king, who presides over parliament and names the prime minister. King Hassan will name a new premier and cabinet after next month's balloting.

The government named Tuesday, includes some members of the previous administration who were not members of a party, as well as some new faces.

Those who retained their portfolios included Foreign Minister Abdul Latif Filali; Justice Minister Belarbi Alawi; Finance Minister Mohammed Berrada; Interior and Information Minister Driss Basri; Agriculture and Agrarian Reform Minister Othmane Demnati, and Housing Minister



King Hassan

Mohammad Boutass.

A ministry responsible for the development of Western Sahara was abolished.

No reason was publicly given for the abolition.

The ministry has been headed since its creation in 1979 by Khalid Ould Rachid, a member of the centrist National Democratic Party, who was dropped from the new government.

The ministry had invested an estimated \$3 billion in infrastructure and social services in the territory.

When Western Sahara was a Spanish colony Mr. Ould Rachid led the National Saharan Unity Party in the territory but defected to Morocco when King Hassan sent 350,000 unarmed Moroccan troops into the desert territory to press his claims in 1975.

Rebels block food airlift to southern Sudan town

NAIROBI (AP) — Rebels are refusing to guarantee the safety of an emergency food airlift to some 300,000 people in the southern Sudanese capital of Juba, aid workers said Wednesday.

"We are still trying to solve this diplomatically," said Thomas Ekvall, head of U.N. Operation Lifeline Sudan. "But if it is impossible, we will have to go ahead without it."

The last relief flight into Juba was July 18 by the Lutheran World Federation, which has been delivering emergency supplies to the town since 1988.

Juba has been the government's main stronghold since the civil war erupted in 1983. Its people, 230,000 of whom fled to Juba to escape the fighting in the countryside, are totally dependent on relief food for their survival.

A major rebel attack on the garrison town followed by heavy shelling and the rebels' threat to shoot down any unauthorised aircraft has prevented the resumption of the food airlift and Juba's food stocks are depleted.

"People are in very bad shape," said Dieter Hannusch, of the U.N. World Food Programme.

The United Nations was forced to halt its Khartoum-based relief operation to Juba after the Sudanese government misused a U.N.-marked plane July 14 by

ferrying troops and weapons on it to Juba. The United Nations subsequently decided to shift its base of operations to Entebbe, Uganda.

Mr. Ekval would not speculate on whether this incident was behind the rebels' refusal to guarantee the safety of relief flights.

But he said the United Nations had sent two letters to rebel leader John Garang and made repeated attempts to meet with him, but had received no reply.

He said that if it continues to receive no answer, the United Nations will resume the airlift Aug. 20 without rebel permission.

Bob Koepf, of the Lutheran World Federation, said he was working daily at resolving the impasse with the rebels, but that without their permission flying into Juba would be too great a risk.

The rebels have shot down several government aircraft in the last month.

"They're fighting a war," said Mr. Koepf. "It's not in their interest to let anyone in."

The insurgents seek greater autonomy and economic development for the predominantly Christian and African south. The central government in Khartoum is Muslim dominated.

2 arrests in third-party 'boiler-room' operations

COCOA BEACH, Florida (AP) — Two arrests in Cocoa Beach are the latest in a sweep against foreigners defrauding U.S. phone companies by routing calls to and from the Middle East through American cities.

Boiler-room operations in this country function as a third party for callers trying to call between Middle East countries that have no direct telephone service — such as Israel and Syria — officials say.

About 50 people have been arrested in New York City, Boston, Washington, Chicago, Kansas City, Los Angeles, Phoenix, Denver and Newark, said Bill Burch, a Secret Service spokesman in Washington.

Khaled Al Hadid and Bayan Al Hadid Khaled, both 24, were arrested by federal agents and Brevard County deputies on Monday.

Agents said the calling service was designed to defraud Southern Bell.

Active only since last week, the operation handled 700 long-distance calls in 15 hours Sunday, most of them between Israel and Syria, officials said.

According to court records, a caller from the Middle East would call the Cocoa Beach number and give the men the number and country to call. The operators would put them on hold, dial the other number and con-

nect the parties.

Processing such calls is not illegal in the United States. But the operators typically close up shop suddenly and move, leaving local phone companies with thousands of dollars worth of unpaid bills, the secret service said.

Most of the callers are friends or relatives calling acquaintances in countries with no direct phone service, investigators said. But some callers may be drug traffickers or others wanting to avoid detection by intelligence services and police agencies, agents said.

Others may be using the third-party method to conceal ties to other countries for political reasons.

The operators, many of them Arabs, obtain customers by advertising the telephone connection services in Arab newspapers, said Wally Coesett, a Florida Department of Law Enforcement agent who assisted in Monday's arrest. Contacts in these countries collect fees for the calls and relay it to their associates in this country.

Hadid and Khaled had phone service in one apartment but tried to evade detection by operating out of a second apartment with two cordless telephones, said Ric Johnson, head of the Secret Service office in Orlando.

U.S. court questions Demjanjuk extradition

CINCINNATI (R) — An appeals court on Tuesday challenged the way the U.S. government won the extradition of John Demjanjuk to Israel where the former Cleveland warworker now faces the gallows as Nazi camp guard "Ivan the Terrible."

"You seem to take the position that so long as in isolation you show Demjanjuk was there (at the camp) that is sufficient even though you have some evidence that might undermine that inference, that you have no obligation to set the record straight," Chief Judge Gilbert Merritt of the U.S. Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals told a government lawyer.

The U.S. Justice Department admitted in June it had information at the time of the extradition it did not share with the court.

It involved a "1945 statement from a Soviet guard named Pavel Leleko" who "said the two guards who operated the gas chambers at the Treblinka camp were named Ivan Marchenko and 'Nikolai'."

Demjanjuk's lawyers contend Marchenko was the real "Ivan the Terrible" and Demjanjuk was a victim of mistaken identity.

Demjanjuk, 72, was convicted in Israel in 1988 of being a guard at the Nazi camp where an estimated 80,000 people perished.

After Tuesday's hearing the court took under advisement Demjanjuk's request that the extradition be voided, giving no indication when it would rule on the matter.

During the hearing Merritt and the other two judges on the appeals panel confronted government attorney Patty Stemler with defence claims the Justice Department withheld the information.

Mr. Stemler told the court, "I think it would have been prudent to disclose it (but) I don't think it has a great deal of significance."

But Mr. Merritt and his fellow judges appeared to disagree. "Experienced judges are always concerned about eyewitness testimony," said Judge Pierce Lively, who wrote the decision enabling the United States to extradite Demjanjuk in 1986.

"It was a common concern of all three of us that we were largely relying on eyewitness testimony because it's not what we like to rely on if there's something better," Mr. Lively said.

The Israeli supreme court is due to rule, perhaps as early as next month, on Demjanjuk's appeal of his conviction and death sentence.

Evidence has been presented in Israel recently that "Ivan" was actually a man named Marchenko whose whereabouts are not known.

U.S. judge criticises Barr's rejection of Iraq probe counsel

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. Judge Marvin Shoob, in charge of a court case that resulted from an investigation of fraudulent loans to Iraq, has renewed a call for a special prosecutor to decide how far the probe should reach, the Washington Post said on Wednesday.

In a telephone interview with the newspaper, Mr. Shoob criticised a decision on Monday by U.S. Attorney General William Barr against appointing a special prosecutor and said Mr. Barr made several "totally untrue" assertions about the court proceedings.

Iraq fraudulently received \$4 billion in loans through the Admanco office of the Banca Nazionale del Lavoro. Nearly half the loans were backed by U.S. loan guarantees for food purchases.

Congressional Democrats sought a special prosecutor, arguing the Bush administration was lax in running the credit programme and dragged its feet in investigating the scandal.

Mr. Barr said there was no evidence of wrongdoing within the administration and the complaints from the House Judiciary Committee were vague.

Mr. Shoob called for appointment of a special prosecutor in June. A plea agreement between the government and BNL Atlanta Manager Christopher Drogoul allowed him to avoid making a public accounting of his acts, Mr. Shoob said.

In the interview, Mr. Shoob repeated that objection and questioned the strategy followed by prosecutors, including the time needed for issuing indictments.

The Justice Department declined comment, the newspaper said.

Under the agreement, Mr. Drogoul pleaded guilty to 60 of the 347 original counts against him and promised to cooperate with investigators.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Yugoslav premier visits Turkey

ANKARA (AP) — Milan Panic, prime minister of Yugoslavia, arrived here Wednesday under increasing criticism from the West for his country's responsibility in the Serb attacks against Muslims and Croats in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Mr. Panic's visit also came at a time when the U.N. Security Council prepared to vote on the possible use of force to protect relief shipments to Bosnia's besieged capital, Sarajevo, and other areas cut off by Serb forces. The vote was expected Thursday. Mr. Panic visited Greece and Albania last week to explain his country's opposition to any international military measure. On Tuesday, a conciliatory statement from the Bosnian Serbs' self-styled parliament asked the U.N. Security Council to inform it what to do in order to "avoid a military intervention and the bloodshed that would accompany." Turkey, a Muslim country with a secular system, has been particularly concerned about Bosnia, which is 44 per cent Muslim. It has presented an "action plan" to the Security Council last week to end the fighting in Bosnia which included limited air strikes against Serb military targets.

Libya sends special envoy to China

BEIJING (R) — Libya sent a special envoy to Peking on Wednesday, days before China and the other members of the U.N. Security Council review sanctions imposed on Tripoli over air strikes against the Chinese embassy in Beijing. Omar Mustafa Al Montasser, economic planning secretary, arrived in Peking as a special envoy of Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi, the New China News Agency said. The government agency quoted official sources as saying the envoy would present a letter from Colonel Qadhafi to a Chinese leader. It gave no other details and the Libyan embassy was not available for comment. Western diplomats said they thought Libya wanted to lobby China, one of the five permanent members of the Security Council, before it meets on Aug. 15 to review the Lockerbie crisis.

Envoy says Iran would arm Bosnia Muslims

NICOSIA (R) — An Iranian envoy said on Wednesday Iran would become the first country to send arms to Muslims fighting Serb forces in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Iranian news agency IRNA reported. "They are strongly resisting... and are presently under heavy pressure. But they do not possess arms as much as they need to defend themselves and therefore they are very much concerned about their own future," Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati told reporters in Tehran on his return from a visit to Bosnia. "Certainly, the Islamic Republic must become pioneer in this regard and remove their problems and (meet their) needs by every possible means," IRNA quoted him as saying. Ayatollah Jannati repeated a proposal that Islamic countries send a joint military force to the former Yugoslav republic. "They (Bosnian Muslims) would be able to defend themselves if the Islamic countries form a joint army and despatch joint military assistance to them," Ayatollah Jannati, an envoy of Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, visited Bosnia with a delegation to investigate the plight of Muslims there.

Two killed in violence in Egypt

CAIRO (AP) — Two people were killed in a Nile Delta town when police opened fire to disperse an angry mob that attacked a police station after rumours that a villager died there under interrogation. The Interior Ministry said. A ministry statement said that Saeed Zaki Gaboub, a cattle merchant at Idku, 150 kilometres north of Cairo, fainted while he was being interrogated by a police officer on Tuesday about money allegedly owed to a fellow trader. The statement said Mr. Gaboub was taken immediately to hospital where he died half an hour later. A medical examination determined that the merchant had died of a sudden rise in blood pressure, it said. Rumours quickly spread in the town that Mr. Gaboub died after being beaten up by the interrogating officer. A mob attacked the Idku police station with gunfire and stones, the statement said. Policemen at the station "fired shots in the air to disperse the mob... local hospital officials later reported that two townsmen had died of bullet wounds," the statement said. It added that an investigation was under way "to determine responsibility for the deaths." The mob also stoned the city council building and set fire to six council vehicles and a police car, the statement said.

Europarlamentarian to visit Baghdad

NICOSIA (AP) — A prominent European Parliament official is due in Baghdad next October for talks with Iraqi leaders, a state-run newspaper said Wednesday. The Iraqi News Agency, monitored in Cyprus, quoted Al Jumhuriya daily as saying that Claude Cheysson, a former French foreign minister, would lead a delegation. If the report is correct, it would be the first visit by such a prominent European official to Iraq since the end of the Gulf war in 1991. The European Parliament is closed in August and there was no way to confirm the report. Mr. Cheysson, a French socialist, could not be reached at his home.

Two Palestinians murdered in Lebanon

SIDON, Lebanon (R) — Gunmen killed two Palestinians in separate incidents overnight at a refugee camp in South Lebanon, security sources said on Wednesday. They said an officer of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) mainstream Fatah movement was shot dead near his home at the 'Ain Al Hilweh camp in the port of Sidon, 40 kilometres south of Beirut. Minutes later, gunmen shot dead another Palestinian, a member of a Muslim fundamentalist group. No groups claimed responsibility for the attacks, but the security sources said they were apparently linked to an ongoing inter-Palestinian feud. Several officials of various Palestinian groups have been killed this year in Lebanon as a result of political divisions among the Palestinians.

Woman pregnant with 12 after treatment

TEL AVIV (AP) — A woman treated with fertility drugs is pregnant with a record number of 12 embryos, an Israeli doctor said Wednesday. But it is a mixed blessing, because chances are great that the woman, now in her second month of pregnancy, will not be able to bring any to term. Said Dr. Jehoshua Dor of Tel Hashomer Hospital outside Tel Aviv. Some embryos will have to be removed from the womb so the pregnancy can succeed, but others are likely to be damaged in the process, Dr. Dor said.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Circus Partenaire
18:30 Maggy
19:00 News in French
19:15 Varieties
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 The Simpsons
21:10 NBA match
22:00 News in English
22:30 Movie of the week: "Keeping Score"

PRAYER TIMES

04:28 Fajr
05:51 (Sunrise) Dhuhr
12:42 Dhuhr
16:20 'Asr
19:28 Maghreb
20:53 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swittheth Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 637355
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terramata Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 625441

Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Armenian International Church Tel. 627981, 685336

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 823824 and 649322

Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be hot and winds will be northerly to easterly light to moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly to moderate and seas calm.

Min./max. temp.

Amman 22 / 35

Aqaba 27 / 41

Djerba 20 / 40

Jordan Valley 25 / 42

Yesterday's high temperature: Am-

man 39, Aqaba 40. Humidity readings: Amman 22 per cent, Aqaba 38 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Ghazi Abu Shaikh 752405

Dr. Khalil Al-Jabali 740740

Dr. Jamil Marwaj 776149

Dr. Wael Kharabeh 665917

Firas pharmacy 661912

Ferdous pharmacy 778336

Al Asma pharmacy 637005

Nadwani pharmacy 623672

Al Salam pharmacy 636730

Yacoub pharmacy 644945

Stomach pharmacy 637660

BRID:

Dr. Maan Shorani 248056

Al Shamsa pharmacy (982328)

ZARQA:

Dr. Hussain Hussain 997166

Khalil pharmacy 985417

Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Emergency 630341

Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637177

Fire Brigade 891228

Blood Bank 775121

Highway Police 94



Amman and university officials discuss cooperation in public services

AMMAN — Amman Mayor Mohammad Bashir and University of Jordan President Fawzi Gharaibeh Wednesday discussed cooperation in providing public services to the university. Dr. Gharaibeh paid tribute to the municipality for its efforts, calling for further bilateral cooperation.

Following the meeting, a joint technical team representing the two sides held a meeting to review questions related to the organization of streets and areas around the university and draining rain water away from the campus. Mr. Bashir said that the municipality will embark on a plan to meet this request. Senior officials on both sides were present at the meetings.

68dunum low-income housing project to rise near Irbid

AMMAN (Petra) — A local firm has won a contract from the Housing and Urban Development Corporation to help set up a housing estate near Irbid in northern Jordan.

Corporation director Youssef Hiyasat, who signed the contract, said that the project is to be carried out four kilometres south of the city.

The total area of the project will be 68 dunums divided into each of 300 square plots of land to be distributed to the beneficiaries.

This housing estate will be a new experiment for the corporation which, he said, will prepare land for building by providing the basic infrastructure for the estate before distributing the plots for homes in the beneficiaries' own style.

The local firm will lay water,

sewer, and electric telephone networks and will build streets at an overall cost of JD 227,000, said Mr. Hiyasat. He said that the project is to be completed in 240 days.

Each beneficiary will be allowed to build on 55 per cent of the plot of land and as high as three floors, noted Mr. Hiyasat.

He added that the housing estate will include such services as a kindergarten, a primary school, a health centre, a police station, a post office, a mosque, a shopping centre and public gardens.

Mr. Hiyasat noted that the beneficiaries will be from limited income groups who can apply to the corporation as of the beginning of the coming year.

The Al Israa Engineering and Contracting firm will carry out the project.

Indonesian leader lauds King

JAKARTA (JT) — Indonesian President Suharto has stressed the importance of His Majesty King Hussein's participation in the 10th non-aligned nations conference next month.

Speaking at a ceremony to receive the credentials of Jordan's new ambassador to Indonesia, Lutfi Al Khasman, the Indonesian president paid tribute to King Hussein for his vast experience and wisdom, which, he said, would enrich the deliberations.

The president voiced appreciation of the King's endeavours at the local, regional, and international levels and voiced his deep satisfaction with the existing ties between Jordan and Indonesia. He expressed hope for further development in all fields.

Last month, King Hussein received the invitation to attend the non-aligned conference in Jakarta through a message carried by a President Suharto envoy.

The president underlined the importance of promoting Jordanian-Indonesian cooperation in confronting the fast moving developments world wide and the challenges facing the non-aligned movement.

The many changes happening world-wide, he said, give the non-aligned movement a new strategy to play in world affairs.

The President said that Jordan and Indonesia have lately promoted their economic relations and it is hoped that this trend will continue and trade between the two countries will flourish.

The ambassador paid tribute to Indonesia's role in world affairs in general and the non-aligned movement in particular. The ambassador thanked Indonesia for its continued support to the Arab World in its drive to regain the usurped lands of Palestine.

Anti-shock device needs funds

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — An Ukrainian medical professor is seeking finance to launch a device that automatically injects anti-shock serum when triggered by the impact of explosion, collision or fire.

One of the professor's Jordanian students, on summer vacation in Amman, is spreading news about the device, the length of a pen and the width of a pack of cigarettes.

According to Wasfi Fahmi Al Japah, a syringe is fitted inside a rectangular, air tight box which is fixed to a person's belt. When the cover's thermosensitive sensors are triggered by explosion or fire, the vacuum is broken, compressing the syringe which will pierce the cover, clothes and then the skin.

A liquid is then injected into the bloodstream that prevents shock, a major cause of death following traumatic accidents.

A parallel mechanism using slots, springs and guides blocks the needle from penetrating too deeply. The mechanism also extracts the needle, said Mr. Al Japah, who is studying under Prof. G.K. Krivobok at the All Union Mine-Rescue Scientific Research Institute of Donetsk, Ukraine.



Mirror, mirror on the wall, who's the best looking horse of them all? Come find out Aug. 28

Arabian horses compete for looks in beauty contest

AMMAN — A beauty contest for Arabian thoroughbred horses is being organised in Jordan for Aug. 28, and will be sponsored by the Royal Stables.

The announcement was made Wednesday by Her Royal Highness Princess Alia Bint Al Hussein, who reviewed the programmes of the two-day event at a press conference.

The Princess, who is chair person of the Royal Society of Horse keepers, said the beauty contest of registered Arabian horses of seven different groups will be held on the first day of the event.

There will be an open contest for all those registered and non-registered Arabian thoroughbreds, the following day, she noted.

The Royal Stables are organising the event in cooperation with a number of local, Arab and international organisations and nearly 140 horses from Jordan, Iraq, Syria and Britain will participate in the contest, the Princess said.

She added that awards and

prizes will be presented to the winners at the end of the festival. Several experts in Arabian horses will be meeting here on Aug. 26 and 27 to discuss judging and preparing for the contest. The Princess said she will be among the experts to offer her views at the preparatory meetings which will be attended by delegates from Jordan, Sudan, Tunisia, Qatar and Morocco. The origin of Arabian horses is not completely clear but experts believe they were first bred in Yemen and the Arabian peninsula.

International recognition of the work of the Royal Stables and Stud came in the late 1970s when they joined English-based world Arab horse organisation.

Experts believe that the country with the largest number of Arabian horses is still the United States, followed closely by Britain. According to experts all registered Arabian horses can take part in international Arabian horse shows.

Palestinian affairs report says Israeli repression continues

AMMAN (Petra) — Israeli authorities continued to oppress and terrorise Palestinians under their rule in the Gaza Strip last month, according to the latest report on the occupied Arab territories by the Department of Palestinian Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The report, a monthly bulletin issued by the department, said that the Israelis have confiscated more Arab land for settlements, contrary to Labour government announcements that building settlements would be curtailed. A number of Arab homes have been demolished or stormed under the pretext of searching for resistance groups. Buildings, such as the Greek Orthodox Church on Olive Mountain and two mosques in Tour and Mukabber around the holy city were destroyed, the report said.

The report particularly referred to the sufferings of travellers to the occupied Arab territories and the delays caused by Israelis at the bridges across the River Jordan.

The report said that the Israelis are continually violating an agreement reached through the United Nations which provided for 4,000 Palestinian travellers to

pass each day. The Israelis have reduced the number to 1,750, later increasing it to 2,500.

According to the report, the residents of the Arab city of Jerusalem have now set up a special committee to try to find a solution to the bridge crisis and have been in contact with the Israeli authorities to allow up to 6,000 travellers to pass daily. The situation at the crossing points became critical when more and more people gathered at the King Hussein Bridge when the Prince Mohammad Bridge closed to travellers, assigned only to trucks, said the report.

The report noted that up to 60,000 people in the past month were waiting to cross.

Turning to Arab worker conditions, the report said that Gaza Strip labourers have been denied permits to enter Israeli areas to work, depriving thousands of families of their livelihood.

As to the expropriated land, about 3 million dunums in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip have been confiscated for establishing settlements or for other Israeli purposes. Last month, the Israeli authorities confiscated hundreds of dunums of land while settlement building was going on.

Press amendment threatens source's identity, but allows more free expression

AMMAN — The Lower House of Parliament on Wednesday ruled that a journalist's source of information, particularly when the information is connected with state security, will be revealed before court.

The ruling came in amendments parliament introduced to article six of the 59-article draft law on Press and Publications during a session attended by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and cabinet members.

The voting on the draft amendments was 52 out of 57 deputies attending Wednesday's session. Article six of the draft law was approved along with articles seven, eight and nine with the slight amendments introduced to article six.

The amendments to article six of the draft law included the following:

— Citizens will have the right to be informed on matters of concern at local, pan-Arab, Islamic and international levels.

— The public will have the right of free expression, access to news and information, and statistics, as well as the right to analyse

and publish information with comment.

— Newspapers and the Jordan News Agency, Petra, as well as editors will have the right to keep their sources secret except before court if the relevant information is related to state security.

Members of the public, political parties, cultural and social organisations and trade unions will have the right to free expression in reporting their own activities.

Petra said that the seventh article endorsed by the House, states that any person and political party will have the right to publish their own newspaper according to the law.

Article eight, also endorsed, provides for official and non-official institutions to help journalists or researchers by giving their access to their programmes and projects.

The ninth article states that publications should not contain material that runs contrary to the principles of freedom, national responsibility, human rights, truth, the Arab and the Islamic nations values.

Deputy Issa Reimouni had demanded that Parliament adhere to the draft as it was presented by the government to the House without amendments.

Deputy Hussein Mjalli questioned the wisdom of the committee's amendments that provide the respect of freedoms, national responsibilities, human rights etc. "If we ask 10 different people to give their interpretation of these principles they would give us ten different answers," said Mjalli.

Deputy Abdul Munem Abu Zant said that freedom should be restricted in order to ensure rationality and discipline, otherwise, he said everything will be chaotic.

Information Minister Mahmoud Al Sharif supported revealing sources. He said journalists and people divulging secrets should know that they are in certain cases, liable for what they say. "It is not necessary that the secret divulged be an indictment for the journalist himself, but as a source of indictment for his source who divulged the secret information," Mr. Sharif said.

TCC dials S.O.S — submits plan for partial private sector control

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Hunters' stray bullets, overused crumbling equipment and lack of funds are keeping the Telecommunication Corporation (TCC) from responding to citizens' demands for better service.

Most of the country's telephone networks are used to full capacity and many are at the end of their operational lives, said TCC General Director Ahmad Nawawi.

"The situation is so dangerous that telephone service will further deteriorate unless a decision is immediately taken to support the corporation's plans to renew its network," Mr. Nawawi said in a written statement at a press conference Wednesday.

TCC is "extremely profitable," said Mr. Nawawi. But its revenue flows into the Treasury which earmarks the corporation's share of the profits. TCC's turn over for 1992 is estimated at JD100 million and its budget is JD25 million.

Twenty-one years after its establishment as a state monopoly, TCC provides automated telephone service to 275,000 customers while its semi-automated network serves 10,000 citizens. At a rate of eight telephone lines for

each 100 citizens, the corporation has one of the lowest ratio of customers to lines in the world, said Mr. Nawawi.

The corporation needs to increase its network capacity by 280,000 lines by 2010 to meet the projected demand on its services. But it "is not getting enough (financial) support from the government," he said.

But the government is refusing to let TCC off the public sector hook.

Mr. Nawawi said the corporation will not be privatised despite arguments that the private sector can provide a better service. "We will not privatise for political, social and economic reasons," Mr. Nawawi said without elaboration.

He said, however, that the corporation has submitted a plan to the government that would amend the law to allow the private sector to operate certain telephone-related services.

Mr. Nawawi said the corporation will soon implement an administrative reform package that will abolish a number of procedural problems facing customers.

The reforms include decentralisation of the corporation's operations as well as providing faster service to customers.

As of September 1, applicants for new telephone lines will be connected within 24 hours of paying the application fees. New customers will be able to process their applications at TCC's offices without having to go to the head office. And, any failure of service will be repaired within 24 to 36 hours of notifying the corporation.

However, "priority in repair work will be given to the Royal Palaces, ministries, offices and houses of members of the diplomatic corps ... and the houses of senior officials," Mr. Nawawi said.

He said the corporation will continue to disconnect its service to customers who do not pay their bills on time, saying that the corporation is facing problems in collecting money from customers.

Service was partially cut to 18,000 customers in Amman this week for failure to pay their telephone bills.

Mr. Nawawi said the corporation will computerise its directory service by May next year, acknowledging the inefficiency of the current manual one.

He said the corporation has asked the government for more funds to finance new projects, improve its service and meet its increasing demand.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

King sends condolences over death of Iraqi Shiite leader

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein sent Wednesday a cable to the Islamic Shiite leadership in Iraq to condole them over the death of Imam Abdul Qasem Al Khawli, a prominent leader of Iraqi Shiites. King Hussein expressed his grief and sorrow over the death of the deceased in his name and on behalf of Al al Bait family in Jordan.

Egypt and Jordan discuss bilateral relations

AMMAN (Petra) — Labour Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabariti discussed Wednesday with the Egyptian Minister to Jordan bilateral relations, particularly in labour-related fields. The Egyptian government has recently called on its nationals willing to work in Jordan to obtain a work contract before leaving for Jordan.

40th anniversary celebrated in amphitheatre

AMMAN (Petra) — As part of the Kingdom's ongoing celebrations of the 40th anniversary of His Majesty King Hussein's accession to the throne, a festival was held Tuesday evening at the Roman Amphitheatre in downtown Amman. The festival which was attended by Amman Mayor Mohammad Bashir included poetry recitals and national songs and dances.

Queen to graduate community medical students

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Al Hussein will patronize next Tuesday the graduation ceremony of the first batch of students enrolled in a Ministry of Health programme on community medicine. The graduates have completed 17 scientific courses as well as practical training. The programme was organised in cooperation with the regional office of the World Health Organisation (WHO). The courses were taught by a host of professors and specialists from Jordanian, Syrian, Lebanese and Egyptian universities, in addition to experts from WHO and the Ministry of Health.

Industrial Fair extended

AMMAN (Petra) — Ministry of Industry and Trade Abdullah Ensour decided Wednesday to extend the period of the first specialised Industrial Fair until Aug. 17. The decision was attributed to the large turnout of visitors to the exhibition. The exhibition which displays Jordanian-made spare parts was opened Tuesday at Amman Chamber of Industry.

Special hall for the blind at university discussed

AMMAN (Petra) — Chief Chamberlain Prince Raad Ben Zeid, who is chairman of the Jordanian Friends of the Eye Bank and Prevention from Blindness Society, visited Wednesday the University of Jordan. He met with its president Fawzi Gharaibeh. Prince Raad discussed with Dr. Gharaibeh several issues of concern to blind students at the university, particularly the establishment of a special hall for them at the university's main library. Prince Raad and Mr. Gharaibeh agreed to set up an ad hoc committee which will comprise officials from the university and the society to study the issue.

Arab youth camp opening postponed

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Youth has decided to postpone the opening of the Arab Youth Camp until Saturday, instead of today (Thursday), minister of Youth Saleh Irshaidat announced Wednesday. Dr. Irshaidat said the postponement was to give the ministry more time to ensure a successful outcome of the camp. He said the camp, organised by the Ministry in cooperation with the pan-Arab Youth Camp Foundation, will be held at Al Hussein Youth Camp in Ajloun for two weeks. The minister added that 300 youths representing 14 Arab-states will participate in the camp, which will include cultural, touristic, social and sports activities and programmes.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

Exhibitions

- ★ Exhibition entitled "Exploring Science" at the British Council.
- ★ Exhibition of small paintings by Mohammad Samara at Beladina Art Gallery.
- ★ Photography exhibition by Shihab Al Mufti at the Phoenix Art and Culture Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition of photos of the Hashemite family since the start of the Great Arab Revolt and the establishment of the Trans-Jordan Emirate as well as photos depicting the development of the Jordanian Armed Forces at Muta University.
- ★ Exhibition of children's books, stationery and handicrafts at the Greek Catholic Church in northern Marka.
- ★ Arabic book exhibition at the Orthodox Club.
- ★ Exhibition of stamps at the old Parliament Building, Jabal Amman.

EMBASSY OF INDIA AMMAN

INDEPENDENCE DAY

To mark the 45th anniversary of the Independence Day of India, a flag hoisting ceremony will be held on Saturday, August 15, 1992, at 10 a.m. at the Embassy of India, 1st Circle, Jabal Amman. All Indians and their families are cordially invited to attend the ceremony.

Note of appreciation and thanks

Friends of the late Nirajan Das of Phagwara, Punjab, would like to express their deep appreciation and thanks for all those who contributed in cash and kind in the campaign to raise funds for the family of the deceased.

The body of Nirajan Das, who died in an accident in Amman on July 12 has been sent to his family of July 15. In addition to a sum of \$600 which was sent along with the body, a cheque for \$1621.40 was sent by registered mail to the family on Aug. 12, 1992. These represent cash contributions made in the campaign to help the family. Detailed accounts are available with the Embassy of India, Amman.

We would like once again to thank each and everyone who helped this endeavour.

Friends of the late Nirajan Das

Tender's Notice

The Projects Directorate/Ministry of Education announces the tendering of the following tenders as a part of the sector Education Project No. (JQ-P8) financed by the government of Japan.

Tender's No.	Title	Fees JD
12/92	General Furniture	50.00
13/92	Laboratory Equipment	50.00
14/92	Audio Visual Aids	30.00
15/92	Sports Equipment	20.00
16/92	Arts and Craft W/Sh	20.00
17/92	Pre-Vocational Edu. W/Sh	30.00
18/92	Office Equipment	30.00

Interested bidders are invited to collect tenders documents from Procurement Division of the Projects Directorate/Ministry of Education, starting August 9, 1992, against the payment of the above fees.

Closing date will be 10:00 a.m. of September 30, 1992.

Head of Special Tenders Committee
Dr. Munther Al-Masari



NEW ENGLISH SCHOOL

ANNOUNCEMENT

This is to state that the New English School will reopen for students from:

- 1) Saturday 29th August at 7:30 a.m., one week later than originally planned for reasons relating to the construction project.
- 2) All administration and teaching staff are expected to report for duty on the 15th August 1992 at 8:45 a.m. for the academic year 1992/1993.



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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation.
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Begin with the big

THE JUST concluded commemorations of the nuclear bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki forty eight years ago are a bitter reminder of the extent to which nations would go to score a military objective. The two Japanese cities being essentially civilian targets, the U.S. decided nevertheless to experiment with its newly developed nuclear arsenal unperturbed by the fact that hundreds of thousands of Japanese civilians would be killed or severely injured. This is not to mention the other diseases that were to stay on in Japan and affect future generations, including long-lasting genetic abnormalities brought about by nuclear radiation. The scar on humanity that was left by this first ever deployment of nuclear weapons against civilian or military targets will never be erased and will continue to haunt the consciousness of mankind especially the American people.

Fortunately the unconscious use of nuclear bombs against civilian targets nearly five decades ago had triggered an international outcry that culminated in the articulation and adoption of two additional protocols to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 that effectively outlawed the use of such weapons against any military or civilian objective.

Unfortunately, however, Washington has yet to ratify these additional international legislations regulating the conduct of war for fear of becoming bound by the jurisprudence of the additional protocols and deprive itself of the nuclear option in case of war.

Moscow followed in the footsteps of Washington and made its ratification conditional on the U.S. decision to ratify the new war rules. Other nuclear powers followed suit and remained outside the purview of the amendments to Geneva Conventions.

With the relaxation in international relations brought about by the demise of the communist order, there can be no justification for the nuclear powers to maintain their obviously illegal stance on the use of nuclear or thermonuclear weapons. Once that hurdle is overcome, there can be additional hope for the countries of the Middle East where Israel has already developed its own nuclear options, unmindful of the international dictates on the subject. The Japanese people paid dearly for the crimes against humanity committed 48 years ago. The least that they expect in return is the solemn commitment by all present and future nuclear powers never to resort to the doomsday machine again no matter what the military stakes or objectives are. The big powers must set an example for the smaller countries which are busy trying to become members of the big nuclear league.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

JORDANIAN DAILY newspapers bitterly criticised President Bush for granting Israel the loan guarantees it has been requesting, describing the move yet another atrocity directed by Washington against the Arab Nation. Al Rai daily said that the American president uttered nice words about peace and about U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 while meeting with the Israeli premier whom he gave \$10,000 million in loan guarantees. Bush gave the Arabs less than lip service and he is not expected to give them anything in the coming few weeks before the presidential elections, said the paper. Indeed, America does not give Israel guarantees for loans but the loans themselves in the form of grants which come out from the Arab oil countries funds deposited in American banks, said the daily. Mr. Bush gave Israel the money for the nice words he heard from Mr. Rabin claiming that Israel was working towards peace, but did not say that Israel would pull out its forces from the occupied Arab lands, the paper added. It said that with the \$10 billion Israel is bound to pursue its atrocities against the Palestinians and follow up terrorism against the civilian population. Indeed the Bush grant to Israel was a bonus for the Jewish State, encouraging it to pursue its occupation and therefore, said the paper, Mr. Bush's action can only be considered as a crime to be added to his other crimes against the Arab nation.

AL DUSTOUR daily said Washington, as expected, offered the Israelis the \$10 billion which it had been demanding in order to settle the Jewish immigrants on occupied Arab lands. It was indeed clear from the beginning that Mr. Bush would undertake such a step, especially after meeting so many obstacles in the path of reaching the White House for a second term and he had to find a way to win the Jewish votes in the United States to achieve that goal, said Al Dustour. The paper said it is feared now that Mr. Bush's quest for the Jewish votes will still not be acquired despite the loans given to the Jewish state and that would deal a devastating blow to the U.S. administration and the president's credibility. The paper said that by claiming he is trying to bring about peace to the Middle East, Mr. Bush is attempting to cover up for America's crime of attacking an Arab country more than a year and a half ago. The paper said that the American reward to Israel came as a blow to the peace process which Mr. Bush had been claiming he would end for good. The paper expressed the Arab Nation's deep regret over the American move taken before any real progress was achieved in the peace process and called on the Arab countries directly involved in this process to revise their positions and guard against further hostile moves on the part of the United States and its ally.

'Balance between environmental and economic considerations needs to be struck'

Following is an address by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan to the conference on environment and development in the Islamic World organised by the Islamic Academy of Sciences in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, between August 10-14, 1992. The address was delivered on behalf of Crown Prince Hassan by Dr. Abdul Salam Al Majali.



The Islamic Academy of Sciences (IAS) was founded to fulfill the aspirations of a multinational group of Muslim scientists. Through its conferences and seminars, it aims to bring experts closer together in a free and independent forum.

The resulting exchange of first-hand experience on shared problems has proved invaluable in the past, and I trust that this will once again be the case. I am sure that your deliberations will help to clarify our understanding of the relationship between the environment and development, in particular the issues associated with science and technology.

It is not for me to tell you, as scientists, of the dangers facing

the earth today. Nor is it for me to tell you, who come largely from the Islamic World, of the problems of development.

I would like only to make a few observations on the role that Muslim individuals, organisations and nations can play in harmonising the demands of the environment with the needs of development, so helping to steer us all safely into the 21st century.

We stand at a threshold, the

greatest that mankind has yet faced in all spheres of human activity. All over the globe, fundamental assumptions are being questioned and the structures and methods of an old world are found wanting.

This is an age of mass communications, rapid industrialisation, instant decisions; an age in which our earth and all it contains are subject to inconceivable pressures. Now more than ever, it is imperative to appreciate in advance the consequences of our actions; and herein lies the unique value of your calling. The changes sweeping the world mean that there can be no room for insularity. There is only room for those who acknowledge our mutual interdependence, and who strive to enrich our common lot. The Muslim World is no exception.

Indeed, while our countries may be classed as developing, our shared Islamic heritage provides a foundation deeply imbued with respect for the environment.

The Islamic tradition has always been profoundly aware of the fragile balance of the natural

order and its interconnected nature. It has always warned that the consequences of disruption of this balance will be felt by ourselves and those we hold dear: our children. These are truths by which to plan the 21st century, truths with which our rich heritage abounds. Let us then embrace that heritage, and let us recognise its inspiration and its singular relevance.

If such are to be the maxims by which we should plan for the century to come, what should be the chief pragmatic considerations? The conditions which prevail at the turn of the next century will be direct results of decisions made now.

Today's choices and priorities thus require comprehensive examination; and I am fully confident that the present assembly is both qualified and motivated to play its part in this task. I hope you will allow me to list a few policy areas which merit immediate attention.

First, changes in current patterns of production must be made by the industrialised nations. The reduction of waste products, sup-

port for developing countries, and the transfer of environmentally sensitive technology, are all vital components of any forward-looking strategy. But so, equally, is the input of the developing world; for we will live with the realities. Let us then be clear as to our goals, and why we wish to pursue them. One area in question is energy. The developing world provides much of the world's energy resources; and here as elsewhere, it is vital that our priorities be clearly focused.

Second, a balance between environmental and economic considerations needs to be struck in the decision-making processes of both industrialised and developing countries. This should acknowledge that certain global development issues, such as the elimination of poverty, the provision of fresh water and the fight against desertification are key steps to sustainable development. New vision is needed at all levels, from global to grass roots. The rapid economic development model, with its environmental strains and human alienation, must give way to a new paradigm,

sensitive both to the needs of the environment and the welfare of people. The articulation of such a model is among the main challenges of our time.

Finally, human values towards the environment must be addressed. Change, ultimately, begins and ends with individuals. The promotion of appropriate values and perceptions is therefore of the highest importance. Gatherings of this nature are extremely beneficial; for scientists of your calibre are uniquely capable of raising public awareness of dangers, while pointing the way to achievable remedies. I hope that the proceedings of this conference will be published, as with previous IAS conferences, so that the benefit of your collected wisdom may be made available to decision makers all over the Islamic community.

The Islamic World has a leading role to play in the articulation of a vision for a sustainable future. You are all part of this great enterprise; and I am confident that our knowledge and our strategies will be the richer for your efforts.

Human rights for sale?

By Roger Normand and Sarah Leah Whitson

Oasim, KAD spokesman and chairman of the Kuwait Lawyers Association, asserted that they had left of their own accord: "I would very much like," he stated, "negotiating to ensure that the emir had refused to renew their residency permits, confiscated their property, and absent-mindedly left the welcome mat in the royal basement."

The brochure, went so far as to justify the arbitrary arrests, torture, and extra-judicial executions of Palestinians in Kuwait as understandable expressions of rage: "Emotions ran very high and many vented their anger and frustration on their countrymen, some of whom collaborated with the invading Iraqi army." This is a remarkable discovery for a human rights organisation — the "understandable rage" exception to the right to life.

Formed in the aftermath of the Gulf war, the Kuwait Association

'Sovereign interests and market pressures should not be the primary forces that drive the human rights movement. More fundamental is a shared belief, akin to religion faith, in the inherent dignity of humanity.'

to Defend War Victims (KAD) is, according to its glossy brochure, a "non-governmental organisation dedicated to protecting human rights and defending victims of war, irrespective of their nationality, ethnicity, or religious backgrounds". Last January, KAD representatives embarked on a well-financed and well-publicised tour of the United States. The human rights message? Free the 1,541 Kuwaiti prisoners of war allegedly still held in Iraq.

Yet they had surprisingly little to say about the gross human rights violations in "liberated" Kuwait. This "independent" and "well-respected" human rights organisation was not troubled by the widespread abuse of foreign women domestics or by the lack of free elections. The illegal mass eviction from Kuwait of 350,000 Palestinians, many life-long residents, was curiously absent from the list of reported human rights violations (all by Iraq) in KAD's thick brochure. Mr. Mishary Al

Osaimi, KAD spokesman and chairman of the Kuwait Lawyers Association, asserted that they had left of their own accord: "I would very much like," he stated, "negotiating to ensure that the emir had refused to renew their residency permits, confiscated their property, and absent-mindedly left the welcome mat in the royal basement."

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KAD's human rights professions would be comical had its message not been so well received during visits to Congresspersons, law firms, human rights groups, and universities. This ability to buy and market human rights legitimacy, and thereby influence politics at the highest levels, is no laughing matter.

The third story involves our own experience. During the war, Americans were astounded with news of smart bombs and surgical strikes, but saw nothing of the effects of war on the people of Iraq. After the war, we received in-depth coverage of the repression of the Kurds (by Iraq, but not by our allies in Turkey), but again, silence on the conditions affecting the rest of Iraq's population of 18 million. Frustrated by this information gap, we organised an ad hoc group of lawyers, doctors, engineers, economists, and graduate students, called the Harvard Study Team (HST), to assess the extent of civilian casualties in Iraq.

HST members conducted thorough scientific surveys during visits to Iraq in April and September, 1991. The findings: The mortality rate for children under five had tripled throughout the country since the war began. The precise and systematic destruction of the electric power system had enormous ripple effects, shutting off sanitation, crippling irrigation and agriculture, and creating epidemic levels of disease and malnutrition. The U.N. sanctions ensured that these systems could not be adequately repaired to

break the cycle of disease and death.

With money remaining from its shoe-string budget, HST hired a slick Washington public relations firm to promote the human rights issues. The public relations people insisted on a number: how many children would die? They advised the group to forego complexity and focus on dead babies. A story interlarding the strategic aim of the U.N.'s maintenance of sanctions, and the skyrocketing infant mortality was too complex for the American public and too politically dangerous for Washington. It was essential, they told us, to avoid the "image" of political bias.

Many of us protested; the information gathered by scientific methodology yielded accurate data, not political bias. These protests have seemed minor to the mass media image-makers. The issue, they explained, was not actual truth, but truth as perceived by Washington. Actual truth might get us coverage in academic publications, but perceived truth could be marketed to the American public.

Ultimately, we swallowed our principles and they sold the story, highlighting mortality data and downplaying the causes of the crisis: the air war and sanctions. And we did make the headlines of newspapers throughout the world. We even made prime time television and radio talks shows. But the message was stripped of its cutting edge — the responsibility of the international community, and especially the United States, for a tragedy that targeted innocent children. In fact, the message was so constricted and shallow that government spokespersons were able to endorse our "tragic" findings and at the same time support the U.N. sanctions, the primary cause of the continuing public health crisis.

While the full message did eventually get out to interested politicians, organisations, and citizens groups, the public at large was spoon-fed only packaged goods. And we were left to wonder whether a more accurate story, not submerged in the political currents of Washington, might have better served the values of human rights and dignity, not to mention truth.

AT's response to market pressure, KAD's service as a front for government interests, and HST's self-censorship all share a com-

mon theme — the subordination of accurate and independent human rights work to political expediency. This distortion continues to miscoverage in the Gulf. While human rights groups have flooded northern Iraq to report on massacres of Kurds by the Iraqi government, not one has demonstrated concern about conditions in the rest of the country, where at least 100,000 children have died as a result of U.N. intervention.

Human rights advocates and groups must squarely face the inevitable consequences of pursuing more influence, more publicity, and more money. They must weigh the gains in reputation, resources, and power against the cost to integrity and principles. Rather than maintain the false dichotomy between human rights and politics, they must acknowledge hidden conflicts and debate unspoken policy choices.

It is naive to consider politics the enemy; political involvement is necessary to effectuate the principles underlying human rights. The real battle is whether these principles will enrich global decision-making or serve as more adjuncts to geopolitical struggle, bolstering the claims of the powerful against the weak. Will human rights challenge politics to evenhandedly apply values of humanity and justice or end up hostage to narrow-minded particularism? Sovereign interests and market pressures should not be the primary forces that drive the human rights movement. More fundamental is a shared belief, akin to religious faith, in the inherent dignity of humanity. In the end, human rights advocates are accountable to this vision, embedded in conscience. This alone can ensure that their movement never becomes, in the words of Eliot Ness, that which it has despised.

Roger Normand, executive editor of the Harvard Human Rights Journal, and Leah Whitson, an associate at the New York law firm of Cleary, Gottlieb, Steen and Hamilton, organised and participated in Harvard Study Team fact-finding mission to post-war Iraq in April and September 1991. Ms. Whitson also joined a delegation of the International Human Rights Law Group to monitor the Kurdish elections in northern Iraq in May 1992. Following is their article on "The subordination of accurate and independent human rights work to political expediency."

Prospects brighter this time for Mideast settlement

By Barry Schweld
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Mideast peace talks will resume in two weeks with a greater chance of success than in the last five rounds.

There are several reasons: The new government in Israel is more compromise-minded.

— U.S.-Israeli relations are on an upswing.

— The Palestinians apparently have decided that limited self-rule is better than confrontation.

— The talks will be held on a continuing basis instead of sporadically.

— The two sides have grown used to negotiating with each other.

The last point may turn out to be the most significant.

The negotiations that opened in Madrid, Spain, last November did not produce concrete results. Israel did not yield territory

and the Arabs did not sign peace agreements.

But after five rounds, Arabs and Israelis now negotiate as routinely as any other parties in conflict. They don't trust each other much. But they've become used to talking about the issues instead of just glaring across the table, or boycotting the talks.

Arab governments that had shunned Israel as if to wish the Jewish state away are resigned to its existence. They realise they cannot defeat Israel on the battlefield. They must negotiate to get anything.

Israel, by the same token, cannot ignore the 1.7 million Palestinian Arabs who live under their control on the West Bank and in Gaza.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin is ready to work out a plan for self-rule, with more authority for the Palestinians than his predecessor, Yitzhak Shamir, contemplated. And he hopes to conduct the elections promptly.

Even under Mr. Shamir the Palestinian front was the most promising. Mr. Rabin's decision to restrict Jewish home-building in the territories is a gesture that may accelerate autonomy.

Indeed, Palestinian expectations go beyond self-rule to statehood. But reality could be taking hold. Israel is offering a trial period of coexistence. Then they would talk again.

Meanwhile, in another gesture, the Rabin government is getting ready to legalise meetings with officials of the Palestine Liberation Organisation as long as they are not considered a threat to Israel's security.

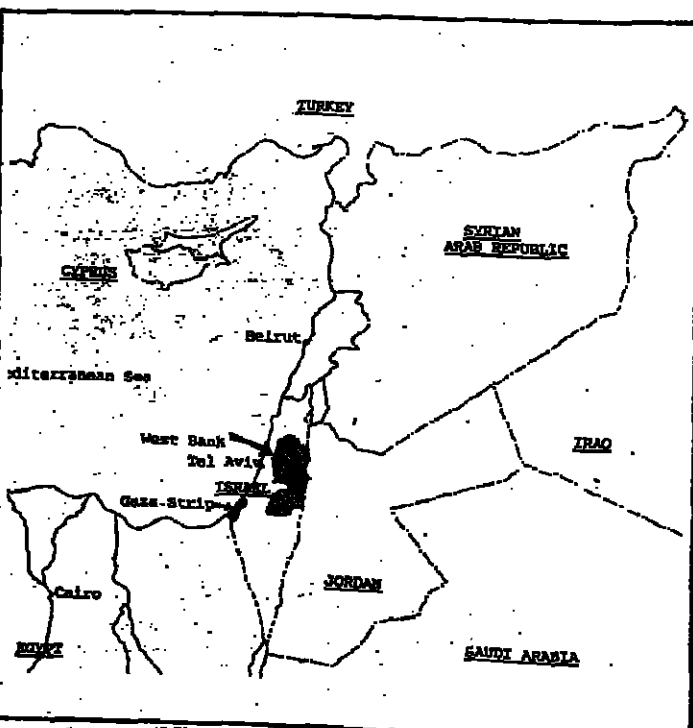
Mr. Rabin also has pledged to keep the talks going on an almost permanent basis. The round that opens in Washington on Aug. 24, for instance, is expected to go on for about a month, culminating in a visit by Foreign Minister Shimon Peres in late September. The short, sporadic sessions of

the past contributed to anxieties and name-calling. The two sides jockeyed for public-relations positions, accusing the other of not caring enough about peace to keep working for it.

President Bush, in announcing the resumption Monday in Kennebunkport, Maine, dredged up all the Mideast clichés to describe the role the United States would play. It would be, he said, a "driving force, catalyst and honest broker."

While the phrases are shopworn, this time they may be apt. Israel's trust in the United States has grown since Mr. Rabin succeeded Mr. Shamir. The president is more inclined to help Israel now. His own struggle for reelection may have as much to do with it as Mr. Rabin's change in settlements policy.

This time, when the United States whispers its advice from offstage, Israel may be inclined to trust what it is hearing.



Esmat Al Said builds on personal tragedy

By Majed Arab

LONDON—Since the tragic death of her husband and father-in-law in the troubled days of Iraq's 1958 coup which toppled the monarchy, Dr. Esmat Al Said has been in mourning. She is always in black and her face is free of make-up, yet there is a hint of a smile on her placid features. The indomitable energy that has enabled her to survive and build a new life for herself lies hidden beneath this calm exterior.

Born in Egypt to an aristocratic and influential family, Esmat married Sabah Said, the only son of Nuri Al Said, the most powerful and controversial politician under the Iraqi monarchy. Nuri Al Said served as Prime Minister and was the prime mover behind Iraq's policies; he influenced political life in the region between the 1920s and the late 1950s.

The controversial role Nuri Al Said played in shaping the future of Iraq and the Middle East was highlighted through his attempts to link the Middle East with the West in a pact in 1955 which came to be known as the Baghdad Pact. Backed by the U.S., this pact was designed to counteract the growing pro-Soviet influence of the late Egyptian leader Gamal Abdul Nasser who had become a symbol of Arab nationalism. Nuri Al Said "believed that all would like to exploit us, but he saw the West, and in particular Britain as the lesser evil," notes Esmat Al Said. "He was a true Iraqi patriot, a pragmatist who put the interests of his country above all other considerations."

She has decided it is time to set the record right by writing a book entitled "Nuri Al Said: A Statesman and Human" due to be published in August by Al Saqi Publishers of London. Asked by the publishers why now and not before, the lady in black explained that what has happened during the last two years—the Gulf war and the new world order—vindicates what her father-in-law had been advocating and for which he lost his life. At ease with historical events, Esmat Al Said shows little interest in commenting on current events, preferring to "let time be the judge." "Is there now something called Iraq?" she asks. "Iraq is a divided country." She likens President Saddam Hussein to the late dictator Franco of Spain, kept in power by a strong

army and a lot of propaganda. In contrast, in her book she emphasises Nuri Al Said's "patriotism and love for his country", quoting him as saying that "a faithful statesman may risk life but he must not put his country and its resources at risk."

Esmat, the daughter of Ali Fahmy Pasha and Nur-Safa Celik of Turkish origin, recalls how fate dealt its hand in bringing her to meet and marry Sabah Al Said, the only son of Nuri Al Said. Sabah was being treated in a hospital in Istanbul after a plane crash in 1936. Esmat happened to be with her father who was undergoing some check-ups at the same hospital. Her father called on Sabah who was also being visited by his father and Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, the founder of modern Turkey.

Ataturk encouraged her and Sabah to marry, she says. The marriage was announced in Istanbul, but the official celebrations took place in Baghdad on Oct. 22, 1936. "Ironically, on the 29th of the same month 1936, the first ever military coup in Iraq took place, headed by Bakr Sidqi," she says. "The cabinet met at the Royal Palace where King Ghazi advised three ministers, including Nuri Al Said, who was then foreign minister, to leave the country for their own safety lest they suffer the same fate as that of (the Defence Minister) General Jaafar Al Asqari who was murdered by the perpetrators of the coup."

Nuri Al Said and his family went into exile in Egypt where they stayed in the mansion of Esmat's family. Nine months later the family returned to Iraq after another coup on Aug. 14, 1938 overthrew Bakr Sidqi and his group. Esmat lived in Iraq and witnessed the stormy events which thereafter engulfed Iraq and the Middle East, leading to the bloody revolution of July 14, 1958. "Before the coup we happened to be in London together with my husband and our two children, as well as Nuri Al Said who was due to attend some official function," Esmat recalled, pointing at some decorations in a cabinet in her flat in central London, which Nuri was supposed to wear at the ceremonies.

A new life

"Suddenly telegrams were

flooding in from Baghdad urging him to come back quickly to Iraq for a couple of days to sort out problems there. He did return and there met his fate. Three days later he was killed and so was his son. No one knows where they were buried... These were the tragedies I suffered in those days." Sabah Al Said's widow had to find a new life without the support and power she used to enjoy and without a clear picture of the future. "We did not have anything abroad, we left everything in Baghdad; moreover I had to look after and educate my two children." Dr. Said stressed that her family did not take any wealth nor did she have any financial assistance from anyone.

She had to draw on her own personal and academic resources. She had a Ph.D. in law and economy from France, and speaks five languages: Arabic, English, French, German and Turkish. She remained in London and has never returned to Iraq or Egypt, although she is very active in the Arab community in Britain. "I worked as a journalist in the BBC-Arabic Service," she explained. "I did not know that I had the ability to write plays for radio. I now have a collection of these plays which I wrote for the BBC-Arabic Service. I did not know either that I had the ability to write comedies... I also wrote about women's affairs and famous women," she added with a smile.

Dr. Esmat valued her journalistic experience for its other benefits. Apart from the fact that I had to earn a living through writing, when you take to writing you leave your own surroundings and sorrows. Writing has been an outlet for me. I am sometimes surprised how I managed to write those comedies while I was in black. I may consider this as an escape from reality to another world—the world of my plays."

She attributes her ability to survive to her strong religious faith which has given her patience and tranquillity. "Tragedies help create new life and endow us with new abilities," she notes. Tragedies to her are not personal ones. They can have a wider dimension. "During and after the disaster of the June War of 1967, we were defeated by our enemies, the Israelis, who occupied several Arab countries creating



Dr. Esmat Al Said (left), president of the Arab Women's Council, has written a book on Iraq's controversial Nuri Al Said. She is

seen here with Mrs Mohammad Shaker, the wife of Egypt's ambassador to the U.K.

colossal suffering in our region. These tragedies can sometimes open up positive outlets which can save you from dilemma," said Dr. Esmat.

These political events gave Dr. Esmat the strength to establish the first Arab women's association in Britain as a relief organisation. The association was expanded in 1974 and became known as the International Arab Women's Council Fund (AWC), a self-supporting voluntary welfare association which provides humane assistance, in general, and serves the Arab Community in the U.K. in particular.

Dr. Esmat has been the president of AWC since its establishment. She explained that the activities of the AWC are carried out through seven committees under the sponsorship of the wives of the Arab ambassadors to the U.K. The lady in black takes pride in the role and achievements of the AWC and in the fact that the council "has unified the ranks of Arab women—something we regretably lack in the Arab World," she said.

"Women do not sow the seeds of disunity when they have humanitarian work to do. The disunity in the Arab World during the Gulf War was in contrast to the work of wives of the Arab ambassadors in the AWC. At charity bazaars the Iraqi exhibitions were next to the Kuwaiti and

Egyptian ones. There was a sort of spiritual unity," she noted with enthusiasm. "The human aspect is the main feature of the AWC. Whenever world disasters take place we do our duty. We also participate in most activities of the international relief aid organisations such as UNICEF (United Nations' Children's Fund). We provide annual standing orders to 16 international voluntary organisations such as Oxfam and Save The Children Fund. We take part in cultural activities involving the Arab community in the U.K."

Robbed of her husband, Dr. Esmat had managed to build a new life for herself and her two sons, Isam and Falah. Fate, however, had more in store. Death struck again and snatched away her two sons: Falah, who was a private pilot for His Majesty King Hussein was killed in his mid forties in 1983 in a car accident in Amman; Isam, a multi-talented artist and scientist died about five years later from a heart attack.

Dr. Esmat accepted this most cruel of blows to a mother with the same belief that suffering can stimulate positive energies and new life. "The two deaths were strong blows to me, but I do not shed tears. I faced their deaths with utmost tranquillity," she said. "When I was informed that Falah had a car accident, I immediately sensed that he was already

dead. My concern was how to tell his brother who had heart disease. My reaction was natural and effortless. I felt God's compassion."

Her other solace was in her writing and charity work. She immortalised her son Isam in a book titled Isam Al Said: Artist And Scholar published less than a year after his death. And she is considering writing another book about him.

Through her sons' deaths she found another positive light. Isam's funeral was attended by hundreds of people at the Great Mosque in London and became an occasion at which the honour of the Said family was restored through various speeches—"in the same mosque where his father and grandfather were denied a funeral in absentia," she said with some muted anger left over from years ago.

After Falah's death, a mosque was built in his name at the place in Amman where he died, "whereas his father and grandfather do not even have graves," she added. Dr. Esmat is now well over 70. She still presides over the AWC and is starting her next book. She summed up the tragedy of Nuri Al Said by quoting Sir Anthony Nutting, a former minister of state at the Foreign Office in the mid-1950s: "There is no justice in politics and no humanity at the time of revolutions"—World News Links.

BOOK REVIEW

Pastoral studies

Nomad: A Year In The Life Of A Qashqa'i Tribesman In Iran

By Louis Beck

I.B. Tauris, London 1992, £9.95 (paperback)

This study of nomadic pastoral society in southwest Iran comes from an anthropologist's researches of two decades back. Louis Beck is a professor at Washington University in St. Louis, and author of *The Qashqa'i Of Iran*, about the formation of this important tribal confederation and its relations with the Iranian state.

The richness of this book's observations will fascinate some readers, just as its length (489 pages) and sheer mass of detail will overwhelm and surely deter others. A generous selection of photos of everyday life among the Qashqa'i nomads complements the text's descriptions of herding, preparing for migration and campsites.

The subject and even the title of *Nomad* will recall *The Last Migration* by Vincent Cronin (1957), a popular account of a year's migrations of a nomadic tribe of Fars province, in which also one bold man, Ghazan, stands out as leader of his people. Both accounts were drawn from real life observation, but are written very differently.

Nomad's central character and hero is tribal headman, Borzu Qermezi, whose guile, determination physical strength and rare literacy enabled him to lead his tribesmen through difficult times. Though the author clearly admires Borzu, she admits his actions and attitudes were often more appropriate to the past, when the Qashqa'i enjoyed substantial autonomy, than their present circumstances. In the 1960s it was the fate of the Qashqa'i to fall under the control of numerous rival government agencies. "They perceived the Iranian military as an oppressive, vindictive force and the government bureaucracy as a virtually meaningless maze."

The pressure on the tribes increased steadily through the decade. The shah's government ordered the Qashqa'i disarmed in 1966, in an effort to bring them under stricter control. The tribes had been in the recent past an independent source of power and a threat to the government. Moreover, some among the Qashqa'i tribesmen used to supplement their meagre income from herding animals by carrying out highway robberies.

The pastures the nomads depended upon became increasingly barren, because of drought and overuse. Under serious political as well as economic pressure, Borzu rightly feared the disintegration of the sub-tribe, with families giving up the age-old pattern of migration to new seasonal pastures and instead settling in villages, in line with the policy of the shah's government. In villages, the men could work as sharecroppers or plant their own crops, renting or even building their own houses.

Settling in villages was worse for women than men. Personal freedoms they had taken for granted disappeared, and they were quickly forced to adopt the ways and restrictions of Shiite village women, along with Iranian dress. One economic benefit of families settling was that carpet weaving by women could be taken up as a regular occupation. It provided what was for them a considerable potential source of cash.

Qashqa'i always considered themselves as "Turks" (i.e. Turkish speakers) living among "Tajiks" (Persian speakers) in the land of Iran, of which they had only a very vague concept, according to Beck. They were in many respects aliens, feeling not only different but superior to the Persians, Lurs, Kurds and other communities whose territories they passed through.

Of course, times were fast changing in Iran by 1970. Even if many of the Qashqa'i young men still escaped doing military service in the army, those tribal children who attended state schools received instruction in patriotism as well as other subjects like history. In this process they also got to recognise and accept national symbols like the flag and the shah's portrait—Middle East International.

Anthony Hyman

Fed up with French high life? Visit a factory

By Paul Taylor

Reuter

PARIS—Fed up with French food? Bored with the beaches? Weary of wine? Why not visit a French factory this summer?

A factory? Yes, industrial tourism is the latest fad in a country which receives almost as many foreign visitors each year as it has citizens—roughly 50 million.

From nuclear power stations to car plants and pastis producers, French industries are opening their doors to a growing number of holidaymakers.

When cathedral-fatigue sets in, "more and more travellers want to visit something different," says Gerard-Marie de Ficquelmont, head of an association called France To Be Discovered. Industrial tourism is one alternative to what the French decry as "brouzer idiot", which translates roughly as "mindless sun-tanning".

To fill in those awkward gaps between gourmet

meals, why not visit the assembly lines where Peugeot cars are made in Sochaux, Mulhouse or Poissy, or drop by at the factory in Lille where machines roll 4,000 Gauloise cigarettes a minute?

The state power company Electricite De France (EDF), keen to show that its atomic power plants really are safe, will be delighted to let you tour a reactor. EDF has even produced a guide book to its factories.

If you prefer your electricity generated by natural means, visit one of France's impressive hydro-electric dams in the hills of the Massif Central.

Some visits are aimed mainly at French-speaking tourists in organised groups, but many factories welcome foreign visitors.

Industrial tourism began with wineries and farms. Many of the country's most famous wine-growing chateaux have long welcomed tourists who can visit the cellars and buy a few bottles of their favourite vintage at wholesale prices. Likewise, cheese makers

from Roquefort to Camembert have for decades been a magnet for informed travellers.

In Alsace, Burgundy, Bordeaux, Champagne, the Loire and the Rhone Valley, everyone from the elite wine grower to the humble cooperative cellar is geared to receive visitors.

In Cognac, in south-western France, the Martell Company now hosts 60,000 a year in its famed brandy cellars. Visits are free every day this summer except Sundays.

Tourists get a guided tour of the distillation and ageing process, a taste of the product and a free sample to take home.

The makers of Benedictine liqueur liqueur host 120,000 visitors a year. For 24 francs (\$4.80), they are shown a historical display going back to the drink's monastic roots, a view of the plants and spices used to make the potent beverage, and a visit to the distillery.

The Paul Ricard Company, makers of the Pernod and Ricard pastis drinks, offers visits to many of its sites,

including its motor racing track near Marseille and its futuristic corporate headquarters in the Paris suburb of Creteil.

Visitors to Alsace can see where Kronenbourg beer is made. The factory has its own museum and audiovisual display.

And while on the subject of beverages, most of the famous French producers of bottled water offer tours of their springs and plants in the spa towns of central France.

Vichy, Evian, Badoit, Volvic and countless others happily open their factory gates to sightseers.

Aside from the food and drink business, France's high-tech aerospace industry is also starting to accept visitors.

The state-owned Aerospatiale, overwhelmed by public demand, recently hired a subcontractor to organise tours of its works in Toulouse, where groups of visitors are shown everything from the supersonic Concorde to the assembly halls for the latest A330 and A340 civilian airliners.

UAE revives traditions with cash, cars incentives

By Christine Hauser

Reuter

ABU DHABI—Under a scorching midday sun, the oasis village is deserted but the inhabitants have left behind their goods and chattels.

Carpet cover the ochre-red sands, with bowls of dates placed around them. Clusters of reed and burlap huts stand in one corner of the walled village, its entrance guarded by two mud towers and stone cannons.

The outdoor market, protected from the sun by a canopy of palm leaves, houses shops displaying clay pots, baskets and bright hand-woven rugs.

This was how Abu Dhabi looked like less than two decades ago. It is heritage village, a sandy plot where the United Arab Emirates (UAE) is preserving remnants of bedouin culture like gems in a museum.

"This is our traditional way of life on an exhibition basis," said an official of the UAE Heritage Committee. The village will be the focus of a national heritage revival

in August, with camel races, poetry recitals and handicraft displays.

The festival is part of a campaign to balance the effects that oil wealth has wrought on traditions.

Today avenues are dominated by luxury cars. Arab women browse in air-conditioned shopping malls. Skyscrapers and plush villas have replaced the reed shelters of the past, which were cooled by air currents from wind towers.

This month the UAE celebrates the 26th anniversary of President Sheikh Zaid Ibn Sultan Al Nahayan's accession as leader of a group of tribes which he later forged into the UAE, the Arab World's only successful federation.

Thirty years ago, Abu Dhabi turned the taps on its first oil well and began the crude exports that brought in billions of dollars and transformed it into a modern capital city.

The oil wealth—revenues have been running at \$10 billion a year for the past three years—has built a gleaming skyline of glass and

stainless steel where once there were sand dunes.

The tremendous changes have destroyed a distinctive way of life based on fishing, trading and camel herding.

"It is not enough to put a tent in big hotel lobbies and pictures of camels to say that we are promoting our heritage," Majid Bu Shilaib of Sharjah's Culture and Information Department told local journalists.

Sheikh Zaid, in his attempt to revive local traditions, has used the same incentives which chipped away at the traditions in the first place.

He has offered cash and cars to citizens who came forward with suitable projects. This month a group of police officers each won 300,000 dirhams (\$81,000) and a Mercedes-Benz for a programme which teaches traditional games.

Government officials have called for a Ministry of National Heritage and UAE universities have introduced courses in traditional local life.

"It is your duty... to know more about your country," Sheikh Zaid said in a message

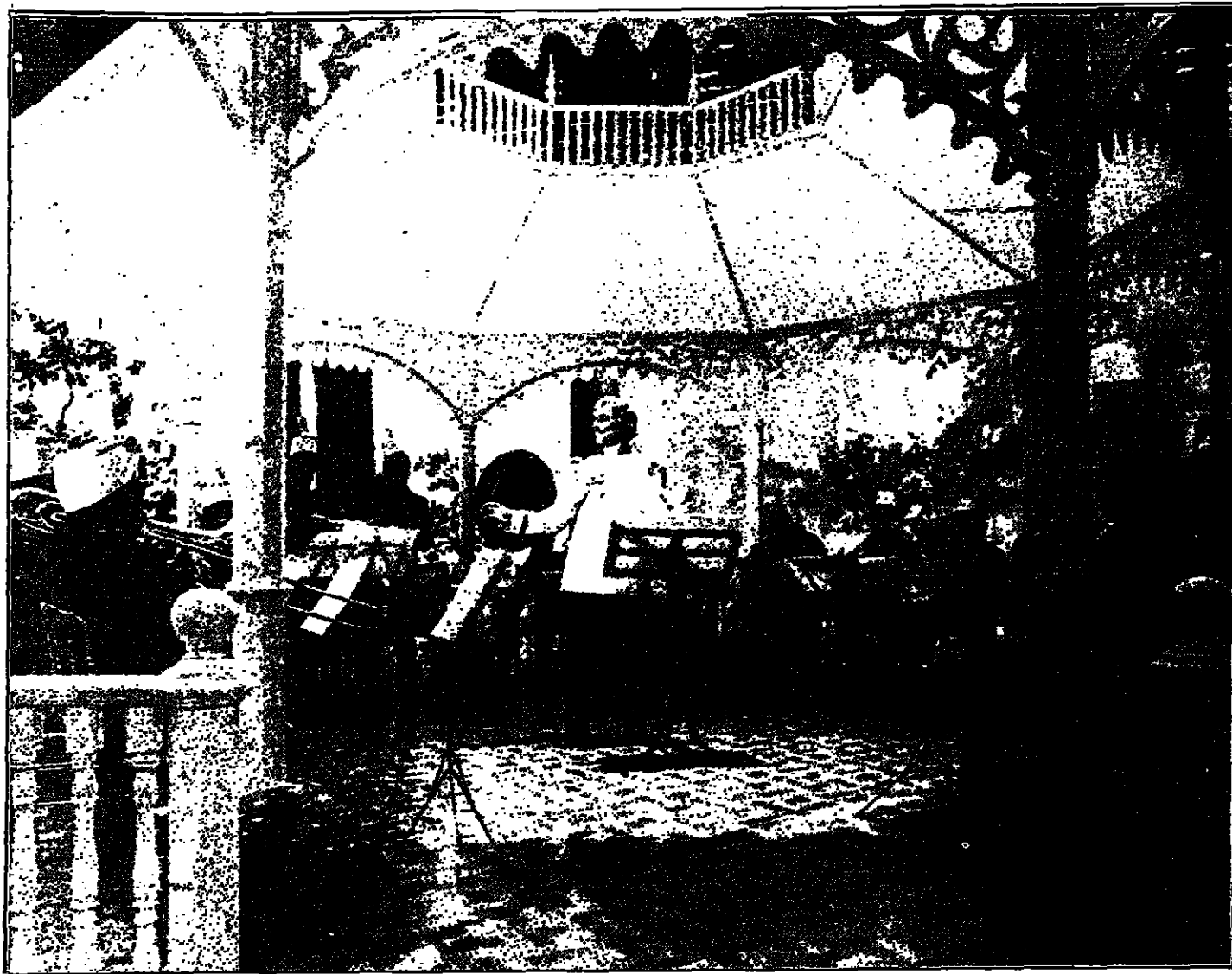
to students. "We are keen that you visit islands and remote areas to know how your country was in the past."

He has also offered cash incentives to poets, fishermen, pearl divers, and breeders and trainers of racing camels. He has organised concerts, folk dances and races for traditional wooden sailing boats.

"Reviving the heritage is a national duty and it should be given priority because it keeps society together," said Najib Al Shamsi, a researcher.

In the emirates of Dubai, Ras Al Khaimah and Umm Al-Qaiwain, local rulers are sponsoring archaeological projects to uncover the secrets of the country's contribution as an ancient way-station to trading posts in Asia and the Indian subcontinent.

"Our slogan is: If they steal my money, they have taken nothing. If they steal my courage, they have taken a lot. But if they steal my heritage, they have taken everything," Obaid Al Zaabi, a Heritage Village official, told the Emirates News Agency.



Strauss Monday at 10:20

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, Aug. 13	Gifford.	10:20 Midnight Caller	More hilarious situations from the talented Rowan Atkinson.
8:30 The Simpsons	Saturday, Aug. 15	Continuation of last week's episode. Jack tries to convince prison rioters to give up their hostages.	9:10 Tex
Homer Simpson discovers that his daughter's love "Lisa" is more important than gambling.	8:30 Super Bloopers		A Question Of Chemistry
9:00 N.B.A. Basketball	9:00 Encounter	Monday, Aug. 17	A German weapons factory develops a new anti-radar rocket.
10:00 News In English	Rami Khouri interviews Dr. Allan Bromely, science and technology advisor to the president of United States.	8:30 Close To Home	10:00 News In English
10:20 Movie Of The Week	9:30 Varieties	Council Of War	10:20 Oscar Film
Keeping Secrets	10:00 News In English	Dr. James makes a deal with members of the council.	
Starring: Susanne Somers and James Sotorus.	10:20 Feature Film	9:10 A Perfect Hero	Wednesday, Aug. 19
Friday, Aug. 14	Things Change	One of Hugh's best friends, Julian is killed in action.	8:30 Saved By The Bell
8:30 Golden Girls	Starring: Don Ameche and Joe Montegna	10:00 News In English	Slater takes part in a wrestling match with one of the students.
Dorothy takes her mother to hospital to undergo an operation but at the same time she fears on her mother's life.	A strong friendship develops between a gangster and a simple shoe-shiner, who helps him escape a life sentence in jail.	10:20 Strauss Family	9:00 Wednesday Forum
9:10 Root Into Europe	Sunday, Aug. 16	"Revolution"	9:30 Man Of The People
Henry Root visits the police Headquarters in Paris and the European Community centre in Brussels.	8:30 Wings	Johann Strauss Jr. becomes a famous composer in the Vienna music circles.	Constance spends a night in jail after stealing important documents.
10:00 News In English	Joe goes to the bar, and leaves his girlfriend Helen ill in bed.	Tuesday, Aug. 18	10:00 News In English
10:20 Inspector Morse	9:10 Documentary-Profits from Poison	8:30 Acropolis Now	10:20 Mini-Series
The Secret Of Bay 5B	The documentary focuses on the serious side-effects of toxic agricultural fertilizers.	Capuccino Catastrophy	Stay The Night
Inspector Morse and Sergeant Lewis solve the mystery murder of architect Michael	10:00 News In English	Rick goes on holiday and Jim takes over the running of the restaurant	Starring: Barbara Hershey and Jane Alexander.
		9:00 Mr. Bean	A love story about a married woman who drives a teenage boy to murder her husband.
		The Curse Of Mr. Bean	

Thousands look to cow for a miracle cure

By Anis Ahmad
Reuters

KEYARJANI, Bangladesh — Every day, thousands of people from all over Bangladesh descend on this once sleepy village looking for a miracle.

Their hopes are pinned on milk from an 18-month-old cow.

"You have come from heaven to help us. Bless me maa (mother)," 70-year-old Suruj Khan told the garlanded beast in its tin-roofed byre.

Khan said he had been suffering from stomach pain for 18 years and believed the milk would cure him.

"Milk will be served soon and I shall be cured in one or two days," he said confidently.

"God has bestowed a duty upon me to take care of the Kam Dhenu (blessed cow) and serve its milk to every sufferer," owner Kanai Lal Mondol said in an interview in Keyarjani, about 70 miles (110 km) north of Dhaka.

As he spoke, his wife and

relatives distributed about a teaspoonful of a mixture of milk and water to each of the hundreds of waiting men and women.

"We have been doing it for three months and the number of recipients is larger every day," Mr. Mondol said. "We have to mix water so that no one (misses out)."

"The cow produces about a litre (two pints) of milk a day. Whether or not it actually cures anything, it has certainly brought fame and a measure of wealth to Mondol and his family."

It has also created a boom for the town's snack vendors, tea stalls and restaurants. Even the local layabouts are making money — charging people a small sum for using the bamboo bridge across a canal to Mr. Mondol's home.

Mr. Mondol, a Hindu in overwhelmingly Muslim Bangladesh, first noticed something unusual when the cow started producing milk far earlier than cows normally do. He called in the veterinarian.

"He thought it was a disease and treatment continued for weeks but to no avail. Only then I realised it could be a Kam Dhenu and started milking it," Mr. Mondol said.

"Then we decided the milk should be distributed to cure people who have suffered so long... as other Kam Dhenus described in Hindu mythology had done before."

Cows are sacred in Hinduism. In neighbouring India they are allowed to wander the streets unhindered even in crowded cities.

Most of the people visiting the cow are Muslim but Mr. Mondol says this doesn't bother him: "Religion is no bar at all."

He does not charge people for the milk but says he accepts whatever they offer as "a token of love". Neighbours say he now earns more in a day than he did in a month as a humble farmer.

As more and more people seek the cow's help, more and more stories of success and failure circulate.

"My chest and back pain

was cured in just 24 hours," said Abdul Jail, a businessman from the remote northern Bangladesh town of Rangpur.

Mujibur Rahman said his seven-year-old nephew had had what he called a genetic problem since birth but "maa has cured him in two days."

Abdul Latif said he had brought his wife from the eastern district of Sylhet hoping to cure a long-standing condition.

"But we have been disappointed," he said, waiting in the queue for a second time "just to give it another try."

A veterinarian in the nearby town of Manikganj said cows did not normally produce milk until they were three and a half.

He said he believed the explanation for the behaviour of Mr. Mondol's cow was an excessive presence of certain hormones and unusual growth of certain glands.

But he added: "We can't give you the exact cause until we do detailed research."

The miller

By E. Yaghi

Once, when imperialism was still the rage and its oppression felt around the world, in a certain land, honey bees buzzed and orange blossoms hung in clusters in the thick orchards of one man by the name of Abdul Haleem. He lived in relative peace and contentment on the same land that his forefathers had tilled with love and patience for eons gone by. He was sort of an aristocrat in his "garden of Eden" and had many children who played for hours in the summer sun between their water pump and the dirt, taking turns rolling and fighting in the rich red earth and then showering in the sprinkling system. Although Abdul Haleem was known to be kind and generous, he was also respected and feared by his neighbours and relatives and for miles around, his reputation had spread about his daring feats of bravery and the honesty of his spoken word. One afternoon, while he was sitting on the porch of his house drinking in the scent of his orchard under the shade of a huge mulberry tree, a distant relative of his approached.

"Uncle," the young man said politely, "I've got a very urgent request. I hope that you can help me." He wrenched his hands and fidgeted nervously.

"Well, what is it man? Speak up! I have no time for people who beat around the bush," the uncle said, his hazel eyes at work scrutinising his nephew.

"I've come to ask for your protection. In the village where I live, no one can come or go without the consent and approval of our rich landlord who governs us. I must leave that village! I am a poor miller who is trying to support my family and business is very poor in my village. I know you to be brave and just. Please accompany me back to my home so that I may get my wife and children and move somewhere else."

Abdul Haleem could smell excitement in the air and he loved a challenge, besides, he never refused a request for help. "You have nothing to fear," he said happily: "I will go with you and see what I can do."

And he did. In the black of night when the only light was the pale yellow moon, he and the miller rode past watermelon patches, apple groves, fragrant citrus blossoms in thick wooded orchards and they listened to the laugh of the wild hyena, the howl of the mad dog, the hoot of the barn owl and the caw of the mocking bird. Although weapons were forbidden to the native inhabitants by the British imperialists, Abdul Haleem carried his hidden gun in an old leather pouch. Every once in a while, he patted it to be sure that it was still there. He knew that if he was caught with a weapon, he would immediately be imprisoned so he had to be cautious. After some time, he and his companion approached the obscure village which lay quiet and sleepy. "We must go at once and get the landlord's permission for my leaving. Otherwise he will surely punish me and probably even beat me," said the nephew.

"I told you not to be afraid," Abdul Haleem said brusquely. He was usually exceptionally good in dealing with men and more often than not, knew how to handle them. He went up to the landlord's house, knocked on the door and after he had a few words with him, returned in victory to his nephew. The smiling miller embraced his uncle and placed his Judas kiss on his cheek and said: "Oh, uncle, I'm so glad that you were with me. Now let's go and get my family!"

"Wait a minute. Where are you planning to take them?" the concerned uncle queried.

He saw his nephew look at his feet dejectedly and then answer in a forlorn voice: "I really have no place to go. I am at your mercy!"

Modern man follows traditional path to altar in Singapore

By Valerie Lee
Reuters

SINGAPORE — Ajith Damodaran spends his spare time advising Singaporeans on martial problems using up-to-date counselling techniques. He advocates open, frank discussion among couples.

But when it came to his own search for a life partner, this young Singapore doctor took the path trodden by other ethnic Indians centuries before — garlanding, Hindu-style, a girl pre-selected by relatives and family as his wife.

"I initiated the whole thing because one Monday morning, my partner said to me, 'hey, if you're not doing anything today, why don't you come to my engagement?'"

"I was shocked. My partner said he met the girl Saturday and decided to get married Sunday. I thought if Suresh can do it, I can. So I rang up one of my aunts and said, 'start looking for a wife for me,'" Dr. Damodaran said.

In ultra-modern Singapore, young Indians may discuss sex among friends and take their Chinese girlfriends out on dates. But most finally marry women selected by their partners.

Some men still meet their wives only weeks before the wedding night.

Pre-marital love and marriage outside castes are forbidden in the orthodox Hindu society.

Under a time-honoured Indian marriage system followed by the local Indian community, parents must compare horoscopes of boys and girls to see if they are compatible.

If horoscopes match, priests advise parties on the time and date of the marriage after consulting stars. Most important of all, both partners must belong to the same caste and wives must be virgins.

Intellectual compatibility between couples is not essential but a fair complexion for a woman is a prized asset.

In a new twist to the list of pre-requisites, according to a local publication, The Singapore Hindu, some Indian men not only check on chastity but also on the amount of money in their prospective wives' Central Provident Fund (CPF), a compulsory government pension fund.

The term 'love-marriage' continues to have a pejorative connotation in the community.

"Love-marriages always have a hint of scandal about them. Many parents see them as risky ventures undertaken irrationally and in the heat of passion," said Cherian George, a Cambridge-educated ethnic Indian journalist.

Abdul Haleem never refused anyone hospitality so he said, "you are welcome to live on my land as long as you want!"

It was a warm feeling to be of service to his poor relative. But, he didn't have time to be emotional right now. He and his nephew proceeded to the small house which was home for a wife and a brood of children. Soon, they had the for a drowsy family and their meager possessions bundled up on an old creaky wagon and headed for Abdul Haleem's orchards. Days later after saturating his nephew with the best food and comfort, the good uncle gave him a small plot of land free where he could set up his mill and grind wheat. The two men drew up a verbal contract which went something like this, "I'll let you live here as long as you like on the condition that I, my brothers and my sister and their children grind our grain in your mill without paying any money."

"Oh, no uncle, I will grind all our relatives grain free. It's the least I can do to repay you."

But the uncle refused, saying that the entire family was too large and that the miller would never make any profit, so it was agreed that only the uncle's closest relatives could grind free. A small but suitable house was then erected on the donated plot and soon the sound of heavy stones whetting together filled the orchard air. Everything went smoothly at first. But, Abdul Haleem's brother was unhappy with the arrangement. On a cool morning as the two sat outside on the porch, drank mint tea and smoked their handmade cigarettes, Abdul Haleem's brother said to him: "I warned you before, you are making a serious mistake. There will come a time when our nephew will cause trouble. Just wait and see!"

"Nonsense!" the elder brother retorted. "Anyone can see that the miller is a poor man without a speck of malice in his heart."

Summers came and went. The miller wasn't poor anymore. Business was good and succeed had gone to his head. He forgot his uncle's generosity and kindness and started to complain to his wife. "I will never be rich if I keep grinding all uncle's family's grain free."

"Just refuse to do it then," offered his wife.

So the coward who had once taken advantage of his uncle then refused to grind anyone's grain free. Abdul Haleem was furious. When asked why, the nephew replied, "but uncle, no one said they can't mill their grain here, they just have to pay that's all, just like everyone else."

But he had not reckoned dealing with his uncle's anger and in spite of his fear, he tried to gain support and advice from another leading family in the village. But to his chagrin he was told: "No, we won't help you against our good friend. How can you act this way after all he's done for you? He gave you land when you had no place to go. Have you no shame?"

However, rather than letting his uncle's family use his mill free, he moved his business to another town but still kept some of his family on the gifted plot of land so that he could keep his claim to the area. Then one day, the invaders came and nothing remained the same. Everyone lost their homes and land, including the innocent and the greedy. Abdul Haleem's seed became refugees but later again prospered while his nephew became poor once again and never succeeded. On a quiet day, if you look past the sprawling settlements of a people who confiscated a land not theirs and who don't love it as its former owners once did and, if you listen carefully, you can still hear the old mill grinding, children laughing while they splash in the orchard fountains and smell Abdul Haleem's homemade cigarettes as he sits on his porch beneath his beloved mulberry tree in the land of milk and honey.

whose husband is Caucasian. "Arranged marriages are a raw deal for Indian women," said M. Nirmala, a journalist.

"The men can have affairs and postpone marriage till they are 40, paunchy and balding but they will still get nice, fair virgins as wives."

But many Indians do not see the practice as an oddity in a society where the majority Chinese community date and marry with no parental veto.

"I don't see a conflict," said Indian lawyer Manimegalai Vellamsamy. "Essentially the parents create an opportunity for couples to meet. Ultimately it is up to the boy or the girl to make the choice," she said.

Change will be slow to come.

The practice is being upheld as Singapore's minority Indian community — they constitute 7.7 per cent of Singapore's 2.7 million population — may be more "Indian than the Indians in India," at least where arranged marriages are concerned, George said.

"The thing about Indians being in Singapore is that we are a minority and feel under siege. It is because of that feeling that many older Indians feel so strongly about arranging marriages. They feel that if they don't, their culture will be diluted," he said.

Pioneer black filmmaker's lost epic rediscovered after 73 years

By F.N. D'Alessio
The Associated Press

CHICAGO — Seventy-two years after censors banned pioneer filmmaker Oscar Micheaux's *Within Our Gates*, the sometimes violent, sometimes caustic look at black life has been shown without cuts in the city where it was made.

Micheaux, a native of rural southern Illinois, moved to New York after his run-in with the Chicago Board of Censors in 1920.

The movie he wrote, pro-

duced and directed was filmed in Chicago in 1919, the year of the city's race riots. The all-white censor board banned the 1920 premiere of the black filmmaker's second movie because it considered certain scenes too inflammatory.

Two scenes considered inflammatory depicted a lynching of a sharecropper family and a black Baptist pastor as a secret foe of racial progress.

"Micheaux went before the board with Ida B. Wells and other leaders of the black

community and finally got permission to show the film, but only with 1,200 feet (400 metres) cut out of it," said Floyd Webb, programme director and founder of the Blacklight Film Festival.

"The preachers were on his case just as much as the white power structure," Webb said.

The festival Friday night presented an uncut version of *Within Our Gates* that was discovered in 1990 in Spain. The subject matter of *Within Our Gates* was surprising for a movie made in 1919. It deals with literacy crusades, urban crime, alco-

holism, rape and miscegenation.

In its shortened form, the movie played for months in Chicago, making enough money for Micheaux to continue his cinematic career. But he was barred from showing it in other parts of the nation and the film disappeared.

It was the first centimetric setback for the former railroad porter and farmer, whose first movie, *The Homesteader*, was bankrolled by white South Dakota farmers.

Webb sees *Within Our Gates* as Micheaux's answer to D.W. Griffith's 1915 *Birth of a Nation*, which glorified the white supremacist Ku Klux Klan. The Klan makes no appearance in Micheaux's film, but it features a lynch mob of vicious, Mississippi townspeople. Members of the southern aristocracy are depicted as money-grubbing drunkards not above raping a young black woman.

Most of Micheaux's later movies were shot in his apartment in Montclair, N.J., or in a small studio in nearby Fort Lee. He normally used a

rented camera and produced his movies on budgets of \$10,000 to \$15,000. Budgets of up to \$1 million were the rule then in Hollywood.

Of 46 features Micheaux made between 1919 and 1948, fewer than a dozen are known to exist. Most are either what Webb calls "shuffe-along" musicals or melodramas such as the 1924 *Body and Soul*, which introduced Paul Robeson to movies. He played a hypocritical preacher.

"Something happened to him after *Within Our Gates*,"

Webb said. "The Homesteader was a socially conscious movie, and so was this one, but his later works just aren't the same."

"Maybe he realised that the American people just weren't ready for propaganda—propaganda in the good sense, before the Nazis and Communists gave the word a bad meaning," he said.

Micheaux died in 1951. By then, a new generation of black filmmakers had rediscovered his work, but only the later, studio-bound movies made in New Jersey.

In 1990, American film

scholar Thomas Cripps was called to the Spanish film archive in Madrid to identify a mysterious silent movie found in its collection. Cripps identified it as the lost, uncut *Within Our Gates* and it was screened last year during a conference in California.

But last Friday was the first screening in Chicago. Because Spanish titles had been inserted in the Madrid print, an interpreter read the dialogue to the crowd at the Art Institute of Chicago. A jazz octet provided accompaniment.

Flailing in the intellectual wake of a changing art form

By Frederik Hansen

It was basically all a misunderstanding—a brainchild of scientists from Florence fascinated by ancient times, who decided somewhere around the year 1600 to present the Greek tragedies they held in such high esteem in a kind of sprechgesang—under the mistaken assumption that the ancient Greeks had done the same thing.

What was thus created in an attempt to re-establish authenticity of presentation soon established itself in its own right and became what we associate today with the term "opera". The number of opera stages increased rapidly during the 17th century, as the "common people" also gained entry.

During the 18th and 19th centuries, opera even became the prevailing artistic genre, ahead of theatre and instrumental music. As the most lavish and representative of all forms of presentation, opera satisfied the need for a demonstration of power, festive-ceremonious atmosphere, enthralling beautiful melodies and bel-canto vocal acrobatics.

Opera, however, also played a part in day-to-day politics. One need only recall Verdi's significance in the struggle for Italian unification during the second half of the 19th century or Auber's *Stumme von Portici*, which

triggered the Belgian revolution of independence in 1830. And today? Does opera stand a chance at all against the all-power and turn-on-at-any-time mass media, following the invention of the record and cinema film?

Back in the days of Richard Wagner, concepts of music aesthetics led to veritable religious wars among music-lovers. How great is the influence of contemporary music today on the development of the awareness of people interested in culture? Only a fraction of the already small number of friends of classical music "willingly" go along to see modern operas. And yet, considerable cultural policy subsidies are channelled into commissioned compositions and productions each year. Is taxpayer's money being invested in something which hardly interests the large majority of the population?

Ninety five per cent of theatre-goers today associate the term "opera" with historical opera. In their eyes, the festive opera evening should be a retrospective: they want to witness the fate of individuals and hear the music of centuries gone by. Today, the characters on stage are hardly regarded as mirrors of their own social situation, as was intended in Mozart's *Figaro*. Allusions to everyday life or politics are neither desired nor expected. These tasks are

fulfilled by the audiovisual media at every desired time of day and night.

Anyone who wants to review the (embellished) history of mankind in a manner palatable to the ear chooses the opera as a suitable medium so as to doze through the centuries on the wings of song and in the darkness of the auditorium. Contemporary composers have increasingly noticed this desire for politically neutral enjoyment of art with a retrospective perception. The development of the language of music since Schönberg overcame the tonal system has presented an additional obstacle to any attempt to reunite the reality around us with literary fiction in music theatre.

The introduction of a fundamentally new system of expression with independent musical grammar and semantics have snatched the listeners of so-called modern music away from any traditional listening habits. Listeners, therefore, not only have to overcome the rift between art and reality, but also the unaccustomed musical structures which they are unable to simply "listen along" with their untrained ears. A visit to a contemporary opera performance, therefore, becomes a twofold challenge.

Composers who want to reach a wider audience have to lower their sights. Many

seek refuge in so-called literary opera. Setting literature which generally ranks as praiseworthy to music seems to them to be a means of structuring their music-theatre opuses in a more inviting way for their listeners, without having to refrain from the transposition of their own music theory convictions.

All of the premiers at this year's Biennial Festival in Munich fell back on literary themes: Alexandre Dumas, Gabriel Garcia Marquez and Pier Paolo Pasolini were the forces behind libretti, and Rupert Bawden even turned to the Gothic "Roman de Fauvel" from the early 14th century.

Moving away from the textual level, however, and towards music, we soon make a departure from common ground: the ideas of the composers range from Gerhard Stäbler's extremely strenuous emotional deserts of sound to the experimental efforts with modern computer technology by Giorgio Battistelli, from the multi-faceted compositions of Param Vier from India to Oliver Knussens' more pronounced orientation to film music. As in modern art, there is a spreading phenomenon in music which rigorously rejects any formation of artistic currents and aesthetic schools. Every contemporary composer tries to create his own tone of lan-

guage system (and thus one which he alone can fully comprehend) in order to present a contrast to his colleagues.

An approach such as that of the young Mozart, who assimilated the music of the Mannheim School first and then developed his own style on this basis, is inconceivable today. Every student of composition wants to develop himself in complete independence, creating his own style and his own musical world. There is no coercion comparable to that which existed for composers in the "post-Wagnerian era" to having to make a choice for or against the demigod of Bayreuth.

It is all the more difficult for the audience to comprehend the ideas underlying their compositions. As in the world of science and technology, only the highly qualified specialist can grasp the mechanisms of a computer or, in this case, music system. All the uninitiated can do is follow the phenomena presented in amazement and merely grasp them emotionally. They are helpless for the simple reason that they are unable to master an alien language of music.

Anyone who sees an opera premiere in a concert hall finds himself in the same situation as a student of Russian who is presented with the Cyrillic script for the first time. Although he can in-



On a modern stage where conventional elements predominate:

Mozart's *Don Giovanni*, a 1937 version by the Hamburg State Opera

tuitively relate to the form and arrangement of the characters or even derive aesthetic pleasure from the observation of the text—he can only understand it if he learns the language.

This is the primary task of modern music. It requires a translator, a teacher. Contemporary music is a challenge and, in a certain sense, also "work", which everyone involved has to carry out.

In practice, this means that introductory talks, discussions with composers, and

lectures with detailed musical examples with detailed explanation should accompany every performance of modern music.

Contemporary music is the expression of the world in which we live and which we often find extremely difficult to understand, since many aspects of life have become too complex, too sophisticated and too ambiguous.

Modern music is never simply a system or structure. It is also a sonorous reflection of our awareness, an expression of the mental state of an

epoch. An everyday world of sound which is dominated by the noise of traffic and exposure to a constant stream of music may be appropriately transposed through musical dissonance and wandering shreds of melody.

Perhaps we should simply pluck up the courage to bear the sight of the disquieting face mirrored in this musical reflection of our state of mind, instead of immediately trying to cover it up with 'entertainment industry's colourful mask of illusion'—Märkische Allgemeine.

A lesson from Germany's dark epoch The 'Degenerate Art' exhibition recalls an avant-garde

By Kerstin Katja Wienke

BERLIN — "What was once art, is now ostracised," stated Expressionist artist Karl Schmidt-Rottluff as early as 1933. And, indeed, the outlawing and expulsion of the avant-garde in German art began almost immediately after Hitler's assumption of power. The campaign culminated in the "Entartete Kunst" (Degenerate Art) exhibition in 1937 in Munich which was seen there and in another twelve cities in Germany and Austria (after the Anschluss in 1938) by nearly 3 million people. Stephanie Barron, curator of the Los Angeles County Museum calls this unparalleled attack by a state on its own art an "encounter of the pinnacle of German culture with its darkest epoch." She considered the exhibition of some 200 works of art, numerous documents and newsreels — which she reconstructed in its historical setting and impact — an ideal deterrent because of the politico-cultural lesson it imparts.

"Degenerative Art — The Fate of Avant-Garde in Nazi Germany" was on show in Los Angeles, Chicago and Washington and met with great interest and response in the media. The last time Nazi art policy was comprehensively portrayed once more in exhibitions and events in Germany was five years ago. Even so, it's a good thing that the Deutsche Historische Museum in Berlin has taken on the American reconstruction. The expelled pictures are reminiscent of expelled spirits.

In other words, it is a case of making apparent the cultural losses than the loss of

major works by German museums — sad though that may be. In a 7-metre long model, which you can walk around, architect Frank O. Gehry offers visual evidence of the way the avant-garde was treated in 1937. With inscriptions such as "Barbarised Portrayal" or "Utter Insanity" the Expressionists, the Abstractionists and the Surrealists were ridiculed in this poisonous propaganda campaign. In order to "expose" them, pictures of mentally ill persons were hung next to them — because these were more readily comprehensible. This all took place on orders from the highest level: art had indeed become the personal concern the head of state at a time when Germany had allowed itself to be ruled by a failed artist who only launched himself into politics after he had been rejected by the Viennese Art Academy. It's impossible to imagine how limited the damage might otherwise have been.

In many of his programmatic speeches, Hitler announced that "healthy popular opinion" alone would decide on the merits and demerits of art. It was a popular demand. After all, the majority of the middle and lower-middle classes had felt provoked by modern music and modern painting or experimental theatre. In the newly completed Haus Der Kunst (House Of Art) in Munich, a politico-cultural contrast programme of Blut-Und-Boden (Blood And Soil) was solemnly exhibited: False family and rustic idylls, massive neo-German sculptures, paintings of soldiers and party cult for preliminary training purposes.

The "Purge of the Temple of Art" commenced immediately in 1933. Many museum curators, who had committed themselves to modern art in the Weimar Republic, were dismissed. They were accused of having squandered taxpayers' money on "trash and smut," of having favoured international art trends instead of "works imbued with the German spirit." Some 17,000 modern works of art were confiscated in all the larger German museums. Photo and film material from contemporary newsreels documented the events — including the famous auction in Lucerne where, in 1939, 125 of the most precious works of modern art were sold to other countries for a song. The Berlin exhibition includes wonderful early pictures by Max Beckmann, Marc Chagall, Emil Nolde, Otto Mueller, Ernst Ludwig Kirchner, Lyonel Feininger, Oskar Kokoschka, Erich Heckel, and sculptures by Rudolf Belling, Ernst Barlach and Wilhelm Lehmbruck — all of which were scornfully labelled "degenerate" in 1937 and which, in some cases, are owned by German museums.

The Bauhaus was also closed down in 1933. It had long been on the hit list of various Nazi organisations. It was regarded as the "red Bauhaus" where, from the beginning an attempt had been made to combine art with social practice, to take art out of the luxury-sphere of the salons. Gropius, Kandinsky, Klee and other eminent teachers emigrated. Mies Van Der Rohe, the last Bauhaus director, went into exile in America in 1938. The

social-critical painter George Grosz stated ironically: "I emigrated because of Hitler. You see, he is also a painter and Germany simply seemed too small for the two of us." Politically committed artists and those who had lived only for their art were now branded "degenerate" and removed from their teaching posts at the academies: Otto Dix, Max Beckmann, Karl Hofer, Käthe Kollwitz, Heinrich Campendonck. Oskar Schlemmer was likewise affected: His frescoes in the Weimar Bauhaus had already been painted over in 1930.

Up to 1936, Reich propaganda minister Josef Goebbels, did all he could to retain famous artists for the German Reich or to persuade them to return from exile — such persons as composer Paul Hindemith, writers Thomas Mann and Stefan George, film director Fritz Lang. Art and culture were to be allowed to develop freely in the Nazi state, Goebbels promised. But even Emil Nolde — with the enhanced status of "Nordic Expressionist" — who was a party member and completely incapable of understanding the repression of his art, which he regarded as in keeping with what was held to be German, was forbidden to paint.

Several highly-placed Nazi functionaries, particularly Hermann Göring found supposedly decadent modern art more interesting than "propaganda art." They stocked up their private collections with outstanding confiscated works.

The Italian Fascists were much more progressive in aesthetic matters and used the dynamic elements of Futur-



Modern art works — banned in the Third Reich — were displayed at the "Degenerative Art — The Fate of The Avant-Garde in Nazi Germany" exhibition held in the Altes Museum, Berlin. At the opening, Stephanie Barron, from the Los Angeles Museum of Art — where

she had organised the collection before it went on tour in the U.S. and thence to Berlin — walked around the exhibition with Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the then foreign minister of the Federal Republic of Germany.

ism, the elegant design of the Constructivist and their technical orientation just as much for state representational purposes as they did Classic-

ism native to Italy. Italian dictator Benito Mussolini was amused by the cultural policy of his ally, calling it "Nazi absurdity, art by command."

In Germany, however, the totalitarian streamlining of culture and science was unstoppable. Thus the American exhibition in Berlin also

recalls the displacement and long-term losses of spiritual substance as a result of iconoclasm, censorship and repression — IN-Press.

Within years, millions could be discarding eyeglasses, contact lenses

By Ben Dobbin
The Associated Press

BERGENFIELD, New Jersey (AP) — When his phone rings in the dead of night, SWAT detective Edward Sorace no longer has to fumble with his contact lenses. Nor does he worry that one of them might get knocked out in a scuffle.

In the spring, he had a piece of tissue thinner than half a hair's breadth trimmed from his cornea by a computer-guided laser beam. The surgery lasted 45 seconds. Previously, he was able to see at 20 feet (6 metres) what a person with good vision can see at 600 feet (183 metres). Now his sight is practically perfect.

Down a bit from Bergenfield's beauty salon and Woolworth's on the corner is the one-story clinic on main street where more than 200 people have come since May 1991 to repair their nearsightedness.

"After 31 years, I have a new pair of eyes," said Don Slepian, 39, whose sight is now better than 20/20 without glasses. "It's really a liberating feeling, just to wake up and no longer be living in a fog."

The experimental procedure, called Excimer Laser Surgery or Photo-Refractive Keratectomy, was first tried in 1987 and has been performed at 20 clinics across the country on more than 2,000 volunteers.

At least 85 per cent have had their eyesight improved dramatically enough to drive a car legally in most states without any corrective lenses.

That success rate — 20/40 vision or better — has crept up to around 94 per cent among patients treated in the last two years, say the two

companies developing rival laser systems — Visx Inc. of Sunnyvale, California, and Summit Technology Inc. of Waltham, Mass.

Many clinics say all their patients come out with better than 20/100.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration is requiring two years of follow-up tests on 1,400 patients to ensure the technique's safety and effectiveness. Federal approval to sell the laser systems could come by 1995.

In a few years, America's 60 million to 70 million nearsighted people could have the option of discarding their glasses or contacts, or donating them to museums. Already in Canada, Asia and Western Europe, where regulatory barriers are less strict or nonexistent, 15,000 to 20,000 people have undergone Excimer surgery.

"It could become the most commonly performed surgery in medicine," surpassing 1.2 million operations a year for cataract surgery, said Joseph Dello Russo, an ophthalmologist at the New Jersey Eye Centre in Bergenfield.

Dello Russo charges \$3,000, with surgery performed six months apart on each eye. Only one in 20 patients has gotten insurance reimbursement — the surgery is usually classified as nonessential or cosmetic.

He said most volunteers either hate wearing glasses, are "contact lenses failures," or are pilots, firefighters, scuba divers and other professionals not permitted to wear glasses.

Sorace, 41, an "entry team" SWAT officer for Bergen County Police, said, "the majority of the calls are in the middle of the night and I no longer waste time putting my lenses in."

What's more, he said, "I got poked in the eye and my lens popped out" while trying to quell an armed man 2½ years ago. With natural vision of 20/25 "I feel more safe on the job."

Slepian, a keyboardist who performs a "musical styles through history" solo for schools, said he feels younger and more approachable without the thick glasses he's worn since 1961. "Eyes are a very important link with the kids."

Apart from being unable to see her bedside alarm clock without squinting, Susan Marchione, 34, said, "it sounds corny, but I almost feel healthier not to have contacts in my eyes."

Proponents acknowledge that the long-term effects are unknown, but the first person to undergo the procedure "has remained stable — no change," said Columbia University eye surgeon Stephen L. Trokel.

In 1983, Dr. Trokel became the first scientist to suggest that Excimer Lasers, used for precision cutting of computer chips, could be adapted to correct myopia — the inability to see distant objects clearly. Doctors are still experimenting on correcting farsightedness and astigmatism.

The laser removes layers of tissue one-millionth of an inch thick with a dose of "cold" ultraviolet energy that leaves surrounding tissue undamaged.

It is widely considered to be an improvement on radial keratotomy, in which surgeons use a diamond-tipped scalpel to cut and flatten the outer surface of the cornea, the transparent tissue at the front of the eyeball.

That Soviet-imported technique has been tried on as

many as 1 million Americans. Critics say it may weaken the eye wall and note that nearsightedness begins to return in about 25 per cent of patients after five years.

In Excimer surgery, minute calibrations are worked out by computer to determine how many layers of tissue should be shaved off — too much has left some patients farsighted. Others cannot be corrected enough — the procedure works better on those who are slightly or moderately nearsighted.

At night, some still experience a glare — bunches of long points of light coming from a point of light, or halo — a ring around a point of light.

Of fears that someone could be blinded, Summit Technology's president, David Muller, said, "it's never happened yet... It would almost require malicious intent to make someone blind."

The surgery leaves the cornea slightly flatter — allowing light to focus on the image-sensing retina — and lasts less than a minute. The patient, lightly sedated and given drops to numb the eye, lies under the arm of the laser machine, the eye kept open with clamps.

The epithelium, a protective layer about five cells thick, is removed with a flat blade shaped like a tiny hockey stick. The laser then removes 20 to 40 microns of tissue from the cornea, which is about 550 microns, or one-quarter inch, thick.

The epithelium grows back after surgery, causing 24 hours of pain that patients describe anywhere from "worse than childbirth" to "a real gritty feeling." The discomfort usually tapers off after three or four days.

Among Dello Russo's visitors at a recent clinic were Dr. Trokel, who performed surgery on a malpractice lawyer with 20/1,100 vision, and Dr. George Florakis, a New York cornea specialist who says eye doctors are paying about \$20,000 each to attend PRK surgeries and gatherings.

"I've just come from a conference in Greece," he said. "The amount of enthusiasm all over the world is

amazing. It's hot."

Forms of eyeglasses have been tried since the middle ages.

"Before the invention of the printing press, people would have to see far away if they were to become hunters and farmers, up close if they were scribes," Dr. Trokel said. "The need for clear vision has increased. After 700 years of one technology, it's perhaps time to get on to something else."

Heart risk in families linked to genes

DALLAS (R) — Families plagued with weak hearts, fainting spells and sudden deaths may get help soon from biomedical research indicating certain defective genes are at fault, a new study showed.

The research could lead to early warning of the risk of heart disease and allow doctors to help their patients avoid risky activities, researchers said.

Scientists at the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute said in a study published in the American Heart Association's journal *Circulation* they are beginning to identify specific genes and gene mutations that increase the risk of heart disease.

"Not only are we getting at the ability to diagnose heart disease before the symptoms begin, but we also are getting close to being able to stratify the risk," wrote Dr. Mark

Keating of the University of Utah Medical Centre.

Stratifying the risk means doctors could tell patients just how much danger there is that a disorder will develop, he said.

"In other words, certain genetic mutations are more dangerous than other mutations," Dr. Keating said.

The value of such research lies in the potential ability to warn families of the danger of certain heart disease before it occurs.

Being forewarned, families could take precautions, such as altering diet or exercise patterns, the researchers said.

"Once we understand which mutations correlate with a higher risk of sudden death, we can begin to screen people early in their lives, before they develop problems — and then take measures to try to avoid the problems," Dr. Keating said.

Germany wants to cut billions from health care costs

By Larry Thorson
The Associated Press

BERLIN — Most of Germany's doctors are angry. Some dentists stopped drilling for one day to protest. Pharmacists warn of the demise of the corner drugstore.

What's going on? The German government is about to force through a radical halt to spiraling health-care costs, and the medical industry has rolled up its white sleeves for a fight.

Federal Health Minister Horst Seehofer, 43, who likes to be photographed doing pushups or riding a bike to show other ways to better health, has a plan to cut \$7.8 billion from the government's annual health costs.

Doctors and dentists could, in effect, be fined by having their fees cut if they overstep limits on prescribing medication.

Outlays for health care would be permitted to rise only as much as general pay levels, which determine how much Germans pay for government-backed insurance that covers medical and dental work.

Political squabbles within Chancellor Helmut Kohl's coalition over the plan apparently ended as the Free Democrats, the junior partner, reluctantly got behind it. That means the plan will sail through a cabinet meeting and head for parliament, where the government has a solid majority.

Free Democratic leader Otto Lamsdorff said he was persuaded because the government's health-care deficit would jump \$6.8 billion next year unless something is done.

Germans are required by law to join National Health Insurance plans and pay a minimum of 5 per cent of their gross pay for it. Employers match the contribution.

Patients once got medication free, but began paying part of prescription costs three years ago under a new law. Despite this, the government has had to put out

increasingly more money to cover the shortfall between medical costs and payroll deductions.

Dentists, Germany's highest-earning professionals, dispute the health minister's claim that they would lose at most 5 per cent of their income under the new plan.

Mr. Seehofer put their average annual income at \$136,000, but the dentists say it is more like \$95,000 and their loss of income would be at least 20 per cent.

About 4,500 dentists in North Rhine-Westphalia state staged a one-day strike on July 27 to protest what their national association called "a ruinous fee cutback."

Mr. Seehofer debated the dentists on television and accused them of avoiding the "solidarity sacrifice" other Germans are making to finance the integration of formerly Communist east Germany.

The government is borrowing heavily to pay for unification. Reducing the health-care budget would help cut the deficit.

The National Association of Doctors working with mandatory health insurance plans, which cover 90 per cent of Germans, met in emergency session on Aug. 1 in Cologne. It blasted the government in a resolution for risking "destruction of Germany's health system."

The doctors said they would plan protests, but would not strike. The National Labour Federation had criticised the dentists' action as a "millionaire's strike" and it appeared to be a public relations setback for the medical industry.

Pharmacists complain they could lose 30 per cent of their income under Mr. Seehofer's plan, and say many neighbourhood drug stores could close.

Others say the poor and elderly will suffer under the requirement that the patient pay more for medication.

But some doctors say Mr. Seehofer is on the right track.



An anti-AIDS demonstration in France

AIDS in the firing line

Prevention, solidarity and research are the three key words in France's policy to fight AIDS.

PARIS — In France, where the AIDS virus was isolated for the first time by Professor Luc Montagnier, in 1983, the number of HIV-positive victims was evaluated as being 150,000 at the end of 1991. Since the outbreak of the epidemic, the number of diagnosed cases of AIDS has been estimated at between 20,000 and 22,000.

As prevention is the only effective answer to stop the ill from progressing, the public authorities are launching more and more campaigns to make the public aware of the importance of using condoms.

A large number of professionals in the medical and social fields are being mobilised and more than 17,000 people were trained in this area in 1991. In one year, the (permanent and free) telephone service "Info SIDA" (AIDS Information) has received 300,000 calls, 60 per cent of which came from young people between 20 and 40 who wanted to find out about the ways of contamination.

In 1991, hospital attendance increased by 17 per cent and every day 2,500 patients are admitted, including 1,500 for intensive hospitalisation.

The trend is to encourage patients to remain at home in order to reduce the length and frequency of hospital stays.

In 1992, the National Agency for AIDS Research, whose budget amounts to 190 million francs, will have signed 76 new research contracts and awarded about fifty grants, while, at the same time, developing close cooperation with numerous foreign countries.

Encouraging tests

Should an AIDS test be made compulsory before marriage, in mothers-to-be and among army recruits? After several months of hesitation, the government decided against this at the beginning of 1992 while strongly encouraging voluntary testing.

Five organisations had been consulted: The National AIDS Council, the High Committee for Public Health, the National Ethics Committee, the Academy of Medicine and the Council of the Order of Doctors. The first three came out against compulsory testing while the other two were in favour of systematic testing before marriage and in pregnant women.

They pointed out that a test was routinely carried out for syphilis, German measles and toxoplasmosis. So was it not all the more justified for AIDS? Protection of the child to be born and of the partners in a couple would be reinforced by it.

Opponents of systematic testing retort that this is an illusion as this would only give the answer at the time the test was taken with the impossibility of detecting HIV infection of less than 3 months.

As for testing prior to marriage, the numerous transitory couples would escape this and above all, the groups, which are most at risk, that is to say often marginalised, would not enter any of the legal frameworks.

Testing future mothers is not necessary. Statistics prove that 95 per cent of them volunteer to be tested when doctors inform them of this correctly. On the other hand, they rise up in protest when they learn that a doctor has carried out such a test without their knowing. Compulsory testing would create a reaction of rejection, opening the way for fraud and the delivery of certificates just to oblige.

Owing to their age, recruits fit into a category which is barely exposed to the virus (which above all attacks 25 to 35 year-olds). Moreover, almost all risk cases (homosexuals and drug-addicts) are detected in the three days following their entry. So what is the use of testing all conscripts?

For the National Ethics Committee, systematic testing in these cases could lead to possible runaway testing on other occasions such as, for instance, when taking on a new job or on people suspected of belonging to a particular group. This could, in turn, lead to files being kept and a kind of witch-hunt against HIV carriers.

The final argument is that compulsory testing is only carried out in two countries, Cuba and Bulgaria. In the United States, where it had been introduced in three states in 1987, it has now been abandoned. (However, it remains compulsory in the army and in the fire-brigade, as well as for foreigners entering the country.)

Although the government has decided against the principle of obligation, it tries to encourage voluntary testing through incentive measures with the cost of tests being reimbursed 100 per cent, the number of anonymous testing centres being increased, information campaigns, etc.

— l'Actualité En France.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

ONE WAY OR ANOTHER
By Arthur S. Verdesca

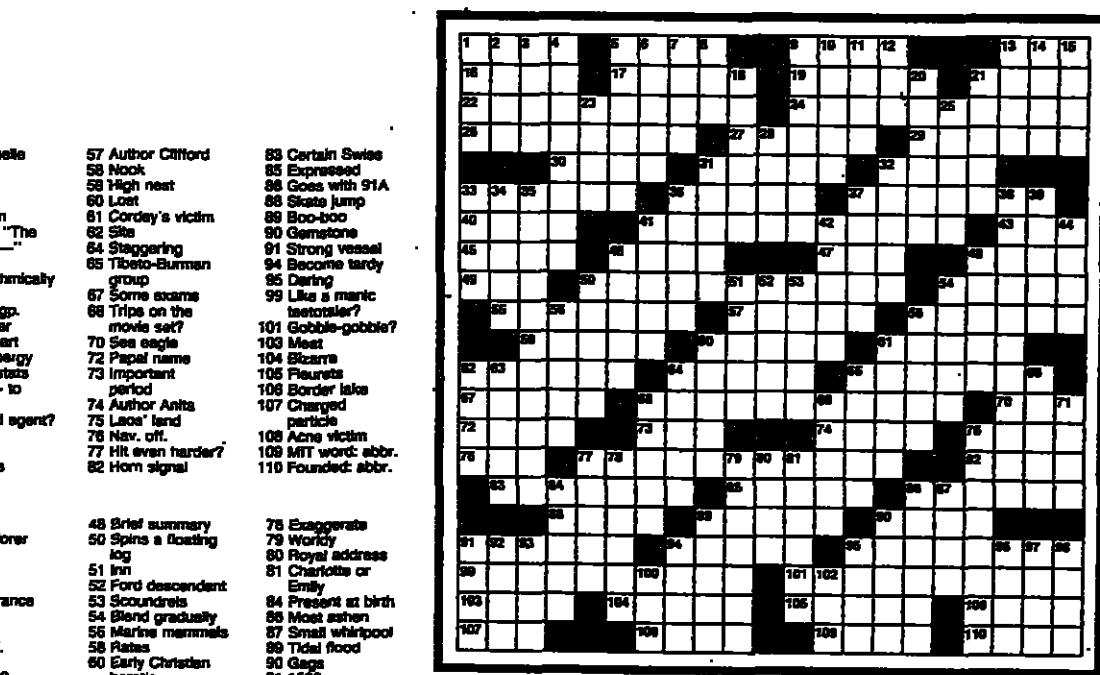
ACROSS
1 Heydn or Hemmingsway
3 Dependent
5 Utah senator
6 Barn
13 Item's stream
15 Entrustment
17 Anthony and
18 Barbers
19 Meritless
20 resourceful
21 — drive
22 Museum
23 sensation?
24 Pogo drama?
25 Errant ones
27 Avian's contrite
28 Raised platform
30 Camera necessity
31 Guiding principle

DOWN
1 Fasteners
2 "Bunker" —
3 Canon
4 Indecorous
5 Pile tar
6 Hydrocarbon
7 — as machine
8 SASE, e.g.
9 Son of Nican
10 "And to all —
11 Rock group
12 Overhead train
13 Start of a
14 Wings
15 Bundles
16 Small places
20 Writer Wally

Diagramless 19 x 19, By Harold R. Coates

ACROSS
1 Bunker
5 Act the usher
9 Japanese people
11 City, city
12 Turk, oil-drains
16 Movie election
18 NFL member
21 NRA word
22 Forsythia
23 Hare and
24 Cottontail
25 Powder base
26 Nae

DOWN
1 Ties
2 Fisher
3 Not qualified
4 Plains plant cover
5 Hunting trip
6 Miscellaneous
7 Author Mike
8 — AVE
9 Vanda
10 Wre
11 Wre
12 Ebbid
13 Delays remarks

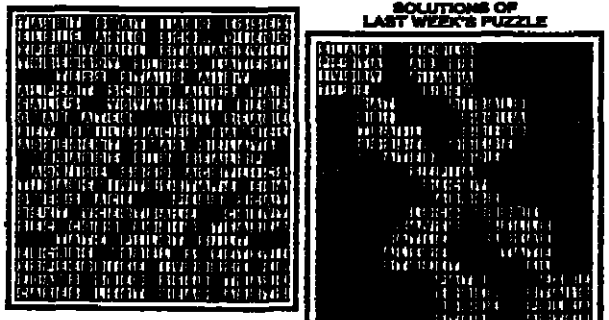


Last Week's Cryptograms

1. A mighty courageous lad tried to sell a big gummy candy bar to his arch-enemy.
2. Best owner buys huge order of canned goods for big cutting on his new yacht.
3. Chubby king gives up throne to devote himself to playing cricket. Headline reads: "No reign on account of game."
4. A novel game is to compare gasoline prices as one travels.

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. JH CFF JVE MCSEIZ LSICFVSIN WJWPEQT
FBI YJZZ ICSEF JQFX OCQ HCQLEIN
REONIF NEOWFX ZEMQL — By Gordon Miller
2. ABBCBD EDFGHE, HIJH KLE CMNJCGE
BDFQHE I MFN SERIGHE NEB CGSMLR
ABBCB CIPQBDLFE NF CIPQHE — By Rita Salvato
3. STUNG SK HAZ KAGB BECAUCZ FGAPCD EUY
ZABAPCD REFN YF EN CUSTU ED
"BADFRANK FRANK" — By Ed Huddleston
4. UGUF MUGSCUM QURCLYR RXXV ZWCMV
TICKER UMGXNN KWIT RX EXNQCRUL BUN
FLEBLLY CGUZ UYS BLUGR QJLML — By Armitage Shanks



Rabin reports 'disagreements'

(Continued from page 1)

United States are lifted from our necks," the Yedioth editorial said. But the right-wing Jerusalem Post expressed concern in its editorial that Mr. Rabin might have promised an eventual total halt to settlement in return for the loans.

In a report from Knesset speaker, the Post said Mr. Rabin and Mr. Rabin had agreed the United States could cancel the guarantees at any time after the first installment and would make deductions for any settlement activity after the aid takes effect on Oct. 1.

It said Israel and the United States would split the cost of securing the guarantees, each paying 3.5 per cent of the "scoring" or risk premium.

However, neither Mr. Rabin nor Mr. Bush have publicly stated the conditions of the guarantees and the actual conditions remain foggy.

Mr. Rabin told Israel Radio that he was not entirely satisfied with the agreement.

"I did not achieve everything I would have liked," Mr. Rabin said on Israel Radio. "But I think that altogether we came out with an achievement."

Mr. Rabin attributed his success to changing Israel's priorities — shifting funds from settlements to development inside Israel.

Jacob Frenkel, president of the Bank of Israel, said Mr. Bush's announcement was "a real vote of trust in Israel's economy."

The money will go to settling some 375,000 immigrants from the former Soviet state, that have arrived since mid-1989 and to stepping up economy growth, Mr. Frenkel said.

Israel is expected to also seek loan guarantees from other countries since the \$10 billion will not cover all absorption costs. The daily Hadashot said Mr. Rabin plans to ask Germany for additional guarantees.

The Bush-Rabin agreement is received a generally warm welcome in Congress, a bastion of support for the Jewish state. But even before the president's

proposal, was submitted to Congress for approval, he was criticized for agreeing to let U.S. taxpayers pay part of the administrative costs for the guarantees.

House of Representatives Speaker Thomas Foley, a Democrat, said, "I think the likelihood of approval of loan guarantees is very high," despite the extreme unpopularity of foreign aid in this election year.

The president and Mr. Rabin flew to Washington aboard Air Force One, and Mr. Rabin scheduled meetings Wednesday with congressional leaders.

Administration officials hoped the U.S. gesture would lead to progress when Middle East peace talks resume Aug. 24 in Washington. Mr. Bush is lagging in the polls in his re-election fight, and a high-profile foreign policy success could provide a much-needed political boost.

Some said that at a White House meeting Tuesday to outline the proposal to congressional leaders, Mr. Bush and Secretary of State James Baker said Israel would be asked to pay just half of the costs, or about \$70 million for the \$2 billion first-year loan increment. Another \$70 million would come from the taxpayers.

"From the beginning, we were told Israel would pick up the entire cost of the loan guarantee subsidy, so there would be no cost to the taxpayer," said Rep. David Obey, a Democrat. "I expect that commitment to be kept."

A staunch supporter of Israel, Rep. Larry Smith, a Democrat, believed the guarantees could be the spark that ignites the Israeli economy and makes it possible for Israel to wean itself from regular U.S. foreign aid. "It could put Israel on its own two feet," Mr. Smith said.

Sen. Patrick Leahy, a Democrat, said his foreign aid subcommittee would probably take up the guarantees next month.

He said the agreement "will heal what has been a rift in U.S.-Israeli relations and help to move the peace process forward, especially if the building of settlements ends."

Concern raised over students' safety

(Continued from page 1)

republics, said that bilateral agreements with Jordan over higher education should be worked out first before scholarships can be agreed on.

Last year, the ministry official said, only 16 Jordanian students were delegated to Moscow and other Russian universities by the ministry, down from 110 in the previous years.

The lack of the agreements with states of the former Soviet Union and the collapse of security remain the main reasons for not sending or encouraging students to go to Russian universities, the official said.

He said that Jordanian embassy instructions to students in Russia are clear: They should not move around except in groups

and must not venture out at night for fear of assaults and murder.

But, the official noted, while the Ministry of Higher Education has stopped sending students to Russia students continue to enrol through their own private means and without consulting with the Jordanian authorities.

A relative of the murdered student said that there was no longer security for Jordanian students in Russia.

Both officials told the Jordan Times that the Foreign Ministry in Amman was still awaiting reports on the outcome of investigations into the latest murder and the other cases to be forwarded by the Jordanian embassy in Moscow. They said no further steps could be formally taken before the results of these investigations arrive.

Jordan awaits details of accord

(Continued from page 1)

Secretary of State James Baker had reassured him during his last visit to Jordan that the U.S. stand on Israel's settlement activity had not changed.

"Jordan always looks at matters in a serious and positive way, so let's wait and see whether or not there are any positive sides to that deal," Dr. Abu Jaber said.

Dr. Abu Jaber's comments, the first official reaction in Amman, came after a farewell ceremony to a platoon of 85 Jordanian policemen dispatched to Cambodia on a peace-keeping mission.

His Majesty King Hussein, who attended the ceremony, did not comment on the issue, but said in reply to a reporter's question that one had to be "cautiously optimistic" about the fate of the U.S.-brokered Middle East peace process.

The terms of the deal announced by Mr. Bush and Mr. Rabin Tuesday are not yet public. But Arabs fear they do not include the total freeze they demanded on Jewish settlement in occupied territories.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) said it received news of the deal with "great concern, especially when the Israeli government has not committed itself yet to halting settlement activities in the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories."

It perceived "a biased stand towards the Israeli position, obstruction of the peace process and a contradiction of U.S. responsibilities as a state sponsoring the peace process."

Hanan Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation to peace talks with Israel, warned: "If the loan guarantees are given while settlement activities are continuing then this invalidates the role of the U.S. as a peace broker."

Israel says 'not to buy Arab houses'

(Continued from page 1)

from a fund to provide housing for the needy and used it to buy property in East Jerusalem, the radio said.

Settlers said Wednesday they would seek to raise money elsewhere to continue buying property.

"It's going to be real difficult for them (the government) to damage our programme in any way, shape or form," said Yossi Baumel, a spokesman for the settler group Ateret Cohanim.

42 deputies want to sue Rifai

(Continued from page 1)

country and regime.

Mr. Rifai had said that the members of the parliamentary committee entrusted with investigations into "corruption" cases had fabricated stories to shake confidence in the Jordanian system for political reasons and objectives.

In reply to the statement, Laith Shbeilat, the head of the House's Investigations Committee, said that the indictment of the former minister was only the first step towards unveiling past "corruption" cases in Jordan. "We are

determined to pursue corruption cases," he said.

Mr. Shbeilat told the Jordan Times Wednesday that the House members will see to it that Mr. Rifai will appear in court to answer to his defamation and slanderous accusations against Parliament members.

Mr. Rifai had accused the House members of working against the regime and of trying to encroach on the royal family for which he deserves to be sued," said Mr. Shbeilat. The deputies, he added, are determined to pursue court procedures to the end.

Syrian papers say loan guarantees a blow to peace

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Syria said Wednesday that the outcome of talks between U.S. President George Bush and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was a "blow to the peace process."

The talks, during which Mr. Bush promised to support \$10 billion in loan guarantees for Israel, "have realised a lot of gains for Israel but nothing for the Arabs," said Al Baath, newspaper of the ruling Baath Party.

"Peace was the last topic on the agenda of the Rabin-Bush meeting," the government-run Al Thawra newspaper said.

However, those familiar with Syrian official thinking in Damascus said the bitter criticism of the Bush decision would not affect Syrian attendance at the next Arab-Israeli peace talks, scheduled for Aug. 24 in Washington.

"All we know is that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin got everything without giving or losing anything," said Al Baath.

"Rabin will no doubt consider himself as gaining in addition to the \$10 billion another undeclared U.S. approval for settling more Jews in Arab lands," Al Baath said.

The daily Tishreen called Mr. Bush's decision "Negative" and said there was no justification for granting the loans "because the decision was not linked to the achievement of tangible progress in the peace process."

Tishreen said Mr. Bush did not get a pledge from Mr. Rabin to implement U.N. Resolution 242 and 338 on returning occupied Arab territories or a promise to halt settlement completely.

"Should the Arabs once again fall victims of U.S. elections and propaganda aimed at gaining Jewish votes?" Tishreen asked.

"The peace process has been harmed and the coming days will reveal that the loans will encourage Israel to continue its obstinate policy and its rejection of peace," Tishreen said.

Al Thawra said Mr. Bush's decision was "not surprising after the U.S. election campaign became heated."

"We were and still are hopeful the U.S.-Israeli honeymoon will not be at the expense of Arab rights, Arab lands and peace in the region," Al Thawra said.

"Our rights were not and will not be a tool for others under any circumstances. The peace which we know and seek is the just peace which returns our land and rights. We will never accept anything else," Al Thawra said.

Reports conflict over Abul Abbas

(Continued from page 1)

Yacoub split from Abul Abbas after the PLF broke off from the Syrian-backed Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, in 1977.

The arrest report originated in a typewritten communiqué bearing the name of the PLF and distributed to Western news agencies in Beirut.

The statement said the PLF leader was snatched by Iraqi police Saturday as he was travelling overland from Baghdad to Amman for meetings with Palestinian leaders.

"The leader and a number of companions have been taken to an unknown place and nothing has been ascertained about his fate," the statement said.

The report is "false and baseless," said a Tunis spokesman for the PLF, speaking on condition of anonymity. He also refused to say where his leader is.

The report also was denied by the Palestine Liberation Organisation ambassador to Iraq, Azzam Al Ahmad.

Mr. Ahmad said Abul Abbas, whose real name is Mohammad Zaidan Abbas, went to a Palestine Central Council meeting in Tunis in May and never returned to Baghdad, his main headquarters since before the Achille Lauro hijacking.

A knowledgeable PLO source in Jordan, who could not be identified by name, said it was possible that the report was part

of an effort to force Abul Abbas from hiding.

The source said the plotters could believe that Abul Abbas would have to appear in public to prove he was not in custody and that he is still in charge of the PLF.

It is not clear why the Iraqi government would have arrested Abul Abbas.

An Italian court convicted the 44-year-old Abul Abbas in absentia and gave him a life sentence for masterminding the three-day hijacking that started Oct. 7, 1985. An American was killed.

Abul Abbas said the guerrillas seized the ship as it sailed in the Mediterranean as a means of getting to Israel and launching an attack there.

After the passengers were released, a plane carrying Abul Abbas and his men from Tunis was forced down in Sicily by U.S. navy fighters and they were turned over to the Italian government.

To the American's dismay, the Italians allowed Abul Abbas to fly to Yugoslavia before the U.S. warrant could be served.

Abul Abbas has been a controversial figure in the PLO whose actions have repeatedly embarrassed Yasser Arafat. An abortive seaborne raid by PLF guerrillas on Israel in May 1990 led President George Bush to suspend a dialogue with the PLO and handed the Israelis a powerful propaganda weapon.

Loan guarantees will bolster Israeli economy

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's finance minister hailed U.S. agreement to underwrite huge loans as a remedy for the ailing economy. The opposition said it set a dangerous precedent by linking economic aid to political concessions.

"The guarantees are important first of all because they send a signal to governments, banks and investors of the world that the Israeli government has the faith of the American government," Finance Minister Abraham Shohat said on Tuesday.

Palestinians warned U.S. President George Bush's consent on Tuesday to \$10 billion in loans guarantees for Israel could jeopardise Washington's role as a Middle East peace broker if it did not demand a complete freeze on Jewish settlements in the occupied territories.

The U.S. assurances will enable Israel to raise loans on world markets at highly favourable interest rates and invest in economic expansion to combat 11.6 per cent unemployment.

Mr. Shohat said he hoped the U.S. backing would help Israel attract foreign investors. An influx of more than 400,000 Russian immigrants has further taxed the beleaguered economy.

Mr. Bush dropped his opposition to the guarantees after newly-elected Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin halted most Jewish settlement in the occupied territories. The announcement came after the two leaders met at the president's Maine vacation home.

For the past year, Mr. Bush withheld the aid from Mr. Rabin's hardline predecessor Yitzhak Shamir because he refused to stop settlement viewed by Washington as an obstacle to peace.

Mr. Shamir's Likud Party, now leading the opposition, charged Mr. Bush had made a dramatic show of announcing the agreement to satisfy his own domestic needs, a reference to the president's flagging campaign for reelection in November.

"It is the first time since the creation of the state that a very strong link has been created between Israeli willingness to make political concessions as a condition for economic aid," said former Minister Moshe Katsav, head of the Likud parliament faction.

Mr. Katsav said Israel's Arab partners to Middle East peace talks would now make tougher demands and pressure Israel by urging Washington to withhold aid.

Hanan Ashrawi, a spokeswoman of the Palestinian delegation to Middle East peace talks, told reporters on Tuesday: "If the loan guarantees are given while settlement activities are continuing then this invalidates the role of the U.S. as a peace broker." She said Palestinians would not object if all settlement was stopped.

Mr. Rabin has halted most new settlement in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. But the curbs fell short of Palestinian demands for a total freeze.

Saddam promises improvement

(Continued from page 1)

that several thousand Iraqi troops backed by tanks were poised near the demilitarised zone separating Kuwait and Iraq.

A leading Iraqi newspaper on Wednesday repeated claims that Kuwait is part of Iraq and questioned American readiness to defend the emirate "when the time for final liberation comes."

Badei said Kuwait is "a manufactured entity which was made by bribery and concessions to the British and Americans."

This claim preceded Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in August 1990. The newspaper said that Kuwait has become "a hotel or a port" where "the corrupt (ruling) family is only a board of directors."

"There is nothing called a Kuwaiti people... they are only corrupted families whose only home country and master is the dollar," the editorial said.

"For this reason we haven't seen them fighting and they gave up their homeland and asked the Americans to get it back for them," it said.

"It is a fact that was reasserted by the mother of all battles that the Americans will not spill one drop of blood for the sake of... these symbols of corruption," it said.

Human rights report

Iraq was accused by a top

By-elections

(Continued from page 1)

the Balgawish tribe.

Until last week observers believed that a close race between the Balgawish candidates could produce a narrowly-fought contest. But, now observers note, the biggest pre-election gatherings are at the Shakhaneh headquarters, made of tents in downtown Madaba led by the Bai Hamida tribe.

Mr. Shakhaneh has also been lobbying the 2,000 Palestinian voters in Madaba, many of whom seem to favour the Brotherhood candidate.

"Mr. Abu Ghannem has no votes among the Palestinians, but Mr. Shakhaneh stands a chance because he is associated with liberal and left-wing groups and has been involved in the Palestinian liberation movement," said one political observer in Madaba.

The 3,000-strong Christian votes is expected to be split between Mr. Abu Ghannem and Mr. Shakhaneh, observers said.

Thus, while the Madaba scene, where only three candidates are vying for the seat, is blurred, a majority in the Fourth District believes the Brotherhood will win on Aug. 18.

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Lewis, Bubka and Morceli shine in Monte Carlo GP

MONTE CARLO, Monaco (AP) — World Champions Carl Lewis, Sergei Bubka and Nourredine Morceli all had Olympic disappointments but rebounded in the first major track meet after the summer games.

Lewis returned to the individual sprint and won handily over a tough field. Bubka showed why he is still king of the pole vault while Morceli posted the fastest 1,500-metre time of the year in the Monte Carlo Grand Prix track meet.

The Monaco meet opened up the post-Olympic season and gave a chance for Olympic losers to post some impressive victories. Lewis raced away in the last 40 metres to win in 10.15 seconds in the 100.

He missed the Olympic 100 by not qualifying in the U.S. trials, although he was world champion and the world record-holder at 9.86.

"I had one truly bad race in the 100 and that was in the Olympic trials," Lewis said. "But you are judged by that race."

Vitali Savin of the CIS took

second behind Lewis Tuesday in 10.21. Dennis Mitchell, Olympic bronze medalist behind Linford Christie of Britain, was third in 10.28.

"I felt strong in the end. To do it just three days after that emotional relay makes me excited," Lewis said.

Lewis anchored the U.S. team to a world record of 37.40 in the 4x100 relay in the Olympics and won his third consecutive long jump.

Mike Marsh, the 200 gold medalist, dropped down to the 100 but came in sixth in 10.35. He has the fastest official 100 time this year of 9.93.

Bubka, of the Ukraine, won the pole vault at 5.90 metres but failed in three attempts to set a new world record of 6.12 just four days after missing at the opening height in the Olympic final.

Bubka struggled early, needing three tries at 5.70 and three at 5.90. He had the height for his record attempts but just missed all three times.

Bubka, a three-time world

champion and the 1988 Olympic champion, missed at 5.70 metres and 5.75 in Barcelona.

In Monte Carlo, Maxim Tarasov, the 1992 Olympic winner, finished tied for seventh at 5.60 metres.

Morceli, of Algeria, came back from his poor performance in the Olympics to turn in the fastest time of the year in the 1,500, winning in 3 minutes, 32.75 seconds.

The Algerian was seventh in the Olympic final. He was boxed in after a slow early pace ruined his chances.

Another Olympic loser, Colin Jackson of Britain, also showed the form that made him an Olympic favourite. In the 110 hurdles, Jackson topped gold medalist Mark McKoy of Canada with a time of 15.12. McKoy took second at 15.23, edging American Tony Dees, 13.24.

In the Olympics, Jackson had the best time in the world with 13.06 but stumbled to sixth.

Roger Kingdom of the United States, the two-time gold medal-

ist who failed to make the American team in June, returned to finish sixth in 13.43.

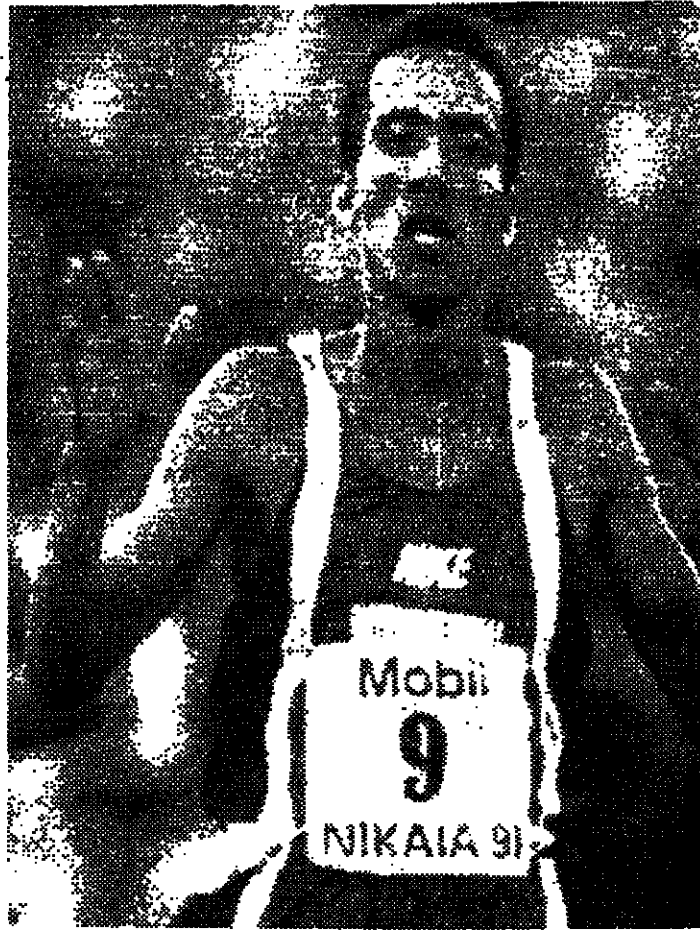
Olympic champion and new world record-holder Kevin Young returned to competition with an easy victory in the 400 hurdles.

Young won the gold medal last week as he broke Edwin Moses' world mark with 46.78.

Young handled a strong field as he won in 47.60 seconds. The participants included the second, third and fourth finishers from Barcelona as well as last year's world champion, Samuel Matete of Zambia, who did not make the Olympic final.

Winthrop Graham of Jamaica, the Olympic silver medalist, gave Young a test for the first half of the race before coming in second in 48.22. Matete was third in 48.38.

Another gold medalist, Heike Drechsler of Germany, also won. She long jumped 7.33 metres, better than the 7.14 she did in winning the gold medal in Barcelona.



Nourredine Morceli

Agassi advances to 3rd round at ATP Championship

MASON, Ohio (R) — Sixth-seeded Andre Agassi was not feeling well but he still managed to beat Frenchman Olivier Delaite 6-4 6-0 in the second round of the \$1.4 million Thriftway ATP Championships Tuesday.

"I wasn't feeling extremely good today," said the eighth-ranked Agassi, the reigning Wimbledon champion. "I guess it's a virus and I've had a headache. I was feeling sluggish. I was fortunate that Olivier got a little frustrated because I didn't feel I was hitting the ball cleanly."

Second-seeded Stefan Edberg played sloppy tennis in the first set, but found his form in the second for a 7-6 (7-4) 6-1 second-round decision over fellow Swede Christian Bergstrom.

The top eight seeds all received

first round byes. Agassi won 61-per cent of the points when he hit a good first serve and never dropped his serve in the match.

He broke the 39th-ranked Delaite's serve in the final game of the first set. The American never allowed Delaite to hold serve in the second set.

Agassi is still mesmerized by his recent success at Wimbledon. "It was an accomplishment so outstanding that you're definitely humbled by winning Wimbledon," Agassi said. "It's harder for me to believe now than after championship point."

The 47th-ranked Bergstrom led Edberg 3-1 in the first set, but could not hold his advantage. Edberg broke back in the ninth game and won the final five points of the tiebreaker.

SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

Seles wins easily in California

MANHATTAN BEACH, California (R) — Top-seed and defending champion Monica Seles of Yugoslavia, playing without her infamous grunt, eliminated Karina Habsudova of Czechoslovakia 6-2 6-2 in 62 minutes in the second round of the \$350,000 Virginia Slims of Los Angeles on Tuesday. Seventh-seeded Amy Frazier defeated Lisa Raymond 7-5 7-6 (7-5) in an All-American first round match at the 28-player, hard court tournament. In other second-round matches, Kimberly Po of the United States routed Catarina Lindqvist of Sweden 6-1 6-2, and qualifier Stephanie Rottier of the Netherlands outlasted American Betsy Magelsen 5-7 7-5 6-3. Second-seeded Martina Navratilova of the United States faces Alexia Dechaume of France in her second-round match. All of the top-four seeds received first round byes. Seles, first in the world, began trying to curb her grunt after being heavily criticized for it at Wimbledon. She has now eliminated it although she admitted it might come back.

Lemond pulls out of Tour of Britain

MIDDLESBOROUGH, England (AP) — Greg Lemond withdrew from the Kellogg's Tour of Britain before the start of Wednesday's third stage complaining of tiredness, his team manager said. The American, a three-time Tour De France winner, also pulled out of this year's French classic after poor form. Lemond's Z team manager Serge Beucherie denied rumours the rider had been sick overnight. "He's just suffering from tiredness," Beucherie said. Lemond failed to sign on for the start of Wednesday's third leg from Middlesbrough to Hull in northern England. He finished two minutes behind the leaders in Tuesday's stage in 78th place.

Dooan aims for Brazil Grand Prix

LONDON (R) — Australia's Michael Dooan, who broke his leg at the Dutch Motocycling Grand Prix six weeks ago, is confident he will be fit to return to championship racing by the end of the month. Dooan, who leads the 500cc championship standings, had a skin graft at an Italian clinic and is currently undergoing eight hours a day of intensive physiotherapy. "I have now taken the first step of the final stage of my recovery," Honda rider Dooan told a team spokesman in England. "The plaster is finally off and I can walk ... everybody is sure I will make it in time for Brazil," he added. Dooan plans to compete in the final two races of the season in Brazil on Aug. 23 and South Africa next month.

Lewis is unimpressive in victory

ATLANTIC CITY, New Jersey (R) — Lennox Lewis beat U.S. journeyman Mike Dixon in a warpath fight for his Oct. 31 heavyweight title elimination bout against Donovan "Razor" Ruddock, but Lewis was far from impressive. The undefeated

Lewis, from Britain, was never in danger against the outclassed American while raising his record to 21-0. The beating Lewis handed Dixon before referee Rudy Battle stopped it at one minute, four seconds of the fourth round, did not seem to impress Ruddock, watching the fight from ringside. "I learned something," said Ruddock, rated number one by the World Boxing Council. "I literally want to take him out. He is moving backwards against a guy who weighs 93.8 kilos. 'I've been in with (Mike) Tyson twice, (Michael) Dokes, you think I'm going to worry about this guy. Be realistic here guys,' said the 28-year-old Canadian. Ruddock is 27-3-1. Two of his defeats were in consecutive bouts last year against Tyson.

Mexico urges probe of Olympic failures

MEXICO CITY (R) — Disappointed at Mexico's showing in the Barcelona Olympics, President Carlos Salinas de Gortari has created a commission to investigate what went wrong. Mexico left Barcelona with one medal — Carlos Mercenario won a silver medal in the men's 50-km walk — despite expectations for medals in the men's marathon, men's diving and other events. It sent 140 athletes to the games. "President Salinas showed his dissatisfaction with the results reached by the Olympic team, which were not as good as the expectations generated nor the support they were given to the directors and competitors by the Mexican people," the Presidency Ministry said in a statement. Raul Gonzalez Rodriguez Monday offered to resign as National Sports Commission president, but Mr. Salinas said he would await the commission's results before deciding whether to accept his resignation.

Tragedy greets Estonia's Olympians

MOSCOW (AP) — One spectator was killed and nine others seriously injured when scaffolding collapsed during a welcoming ceremony for Estonia's Olympic team in its capital, Tallinn, according to news reports. Dozens of people had climbed the scaffolding around a four-story building under renovation in Tallinn's Town Hall Square. They were seeking a good vantage point from which to cheer the return of the Olympic athletes from Barcelona. Most of those injured in the accident were teenagers, the ITAR-TASS and ETA news agencies reported. One of them died after emergency surgery, the reports said.

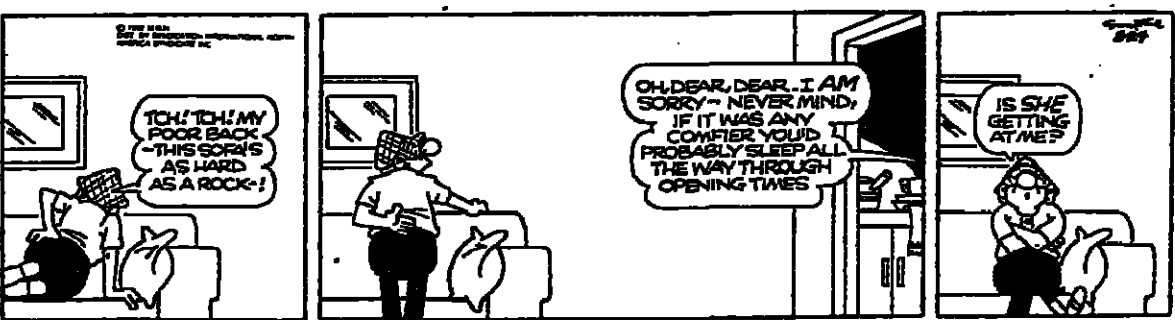
Havelange suffering from dehydration

ZURICH (R) — Brazilian Joao Havelange, president of the International Football Federation (FIFA), has entered a private clinic here for treatment of dehydration, a FIFA official said Tuesday. Mr. Havelange, 72, who has held the office since 1974, was "completely dehydrated" at the Barcelona Olympics and could not attend Sunday's soccer final in which hosts Spain beat Poland. The official said Mr. Havelange's condition was satisfactory but he would have to remain under observation for about a week.

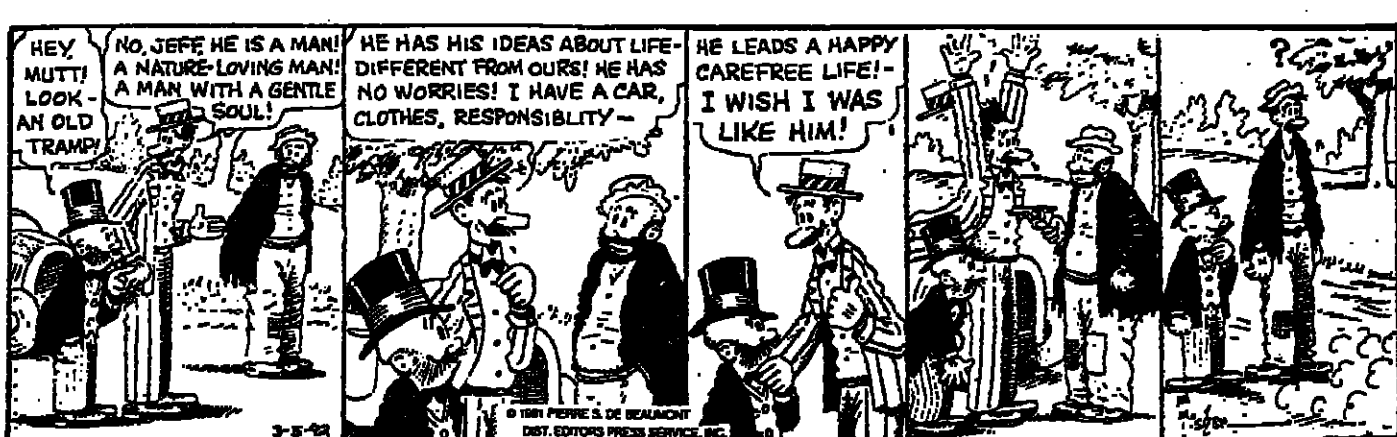
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY AUGUST 13, 1992

By Thomas S. Pearson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The Full Moon in Aquarius places some apparent obstacles in the path of your desires and unless you rely on your mind and not your emotions you will experience a deep sense of dissatisfaction.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Put your environment in the pink of condition in the morning for later you are able to find some ways to perfect your particular gift despite some drawbacks.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Make a date for that amusement that attracts you in the morning then you will be able to get into family perplexities and solve them intelligently.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) The morning finds you getting everything in better condition at your residence, then later be off to some amusements that do not cost too much.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Churn a routine associate into doing what you desire early for then you will be able to go home and eliminate confusion existing there.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Adding paint or other improvements to property increases value early then you will be able to get out and find other means for more daily efficiency.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Do what will make you more

popular with friends in the morning for then you will need to get into your material concerns, handle them cooperatively.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Do something for a loved one in the morning that can later bring happiness and then you will be able to get off with persons who can release data you want.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You can gain that hope that is so important to you in the morning and later you can get rid of some obstacle in the way of being more productive in the future.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) In the morning do those little courtesies to whom ever you come in contact while later you are able to find ways to be equally kind to a muddled thinking friend.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Whatever you have in mind to do something special for me at a distance should be carried through, then you can tackle the problem with a bigwig.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Bring to light the pleasure you have in an alliance with a partner and please that person, then you can proceed with duties of relationships.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You certainly have a chance this morning to make a good friend and contact with a business person and after so doing show sincerity by some practical support.

THE BETTER HALF

By Harris



"Are the blisters from yard work or from changing channels too fast?"

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY AUGUST 14, 1992

By Thomas S. Pearson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Shop, keep appointments and do necessary errands this morning and later on spend some time on everyday problems that require thinking before you act upon them. Evening good for entertainment.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Bring into the open the affection you have for your associates and you have a good chance that you will knit even more closer a happy rapport.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Add that touch of art, color, comfort, ease to your surroundings for by so doing you can find everything is easier to do in such an atmosphere.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Your day to think in terms of the romantic interest that means the most to you and to arrange to be together in attractive surroundings for happiness.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Listen to your family's big plans for the days to come and then let them know yours and you meet on grounds for more abundance.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You would be well rewarded now for showing special concern and loyalty to those contacts with whom you have daily association in any activities.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) A confidential advisor will not

show you, if asked by you just what you can do in order to add to your present holdings and enhance your security.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Don't hesitate to let a generous and magnanimous friend be aware of just what your personal desires are and accept that person's assistance.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) A very good time to get off alone with the one who means the most to you and to have one of your most interesting get together of times.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) A friend can inspire you anew in some important growth and development that is vital to your expansion of present outlets available to you.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Your day to make rapid and satisfactory progress in whatever pertains to your worldly success and honor and in pleasing those in power.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Take some time out to get into whatever you want to do in the future and that requires considerable understanding of, cooperation with newcomers.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) This is the day for you to make sure you show special regard for your mate and you get big dividends in added devotion from your attachment.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OWAN SHARP
A TAYLORIAN PUBLICATION
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TAKE THEM ONE AT A TIME

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ 7 6
♥ 4 3
♦ K J 8 7 3
♣ K 8 6 2

EAST
♠ 10 9 8 4
♥ K J 9 8 6 2
♦ Q 10 5 4
♣ Q 9

SOUTH
♠ A K 5 3 2
♥ A Q
♦ A 8
♣ A 7 4 3

The bidding:
South West North East
2 NT Pass 3 0 Pass
3 3 Pass 4 4 Pass
5 4 Pass 5 5 Pass
6 4 Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Jack of ♠
The standard of play on a bridge game is usually a mixed bag—it is not often that you come up with a rare technical achievement on board. This hand was given to us by Bill Root, who usually runs the largest bridge game afloat.

With almost all prime cards, the South hand would have been worth opening with a demand bid in spades were it not for the poor quality

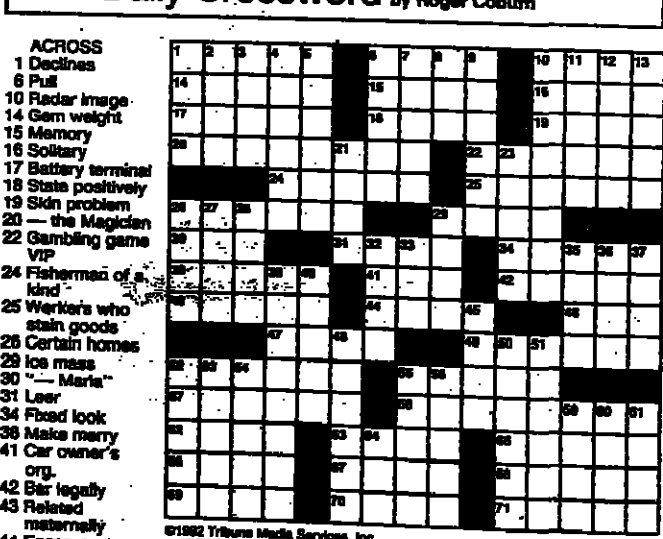
of the suit. As it was, two no trump was a reasonable compromise despite being a little off-shape.

North chose a sequence that showed a 3-1-5-4 hand pattern, and South opted for the higher-scoring spade slam. As the cards lie, six clubs would have been a claimer, but the spade slam was better, since had clubs been 4-1, there would have been no way to avoid two losers in that suit.

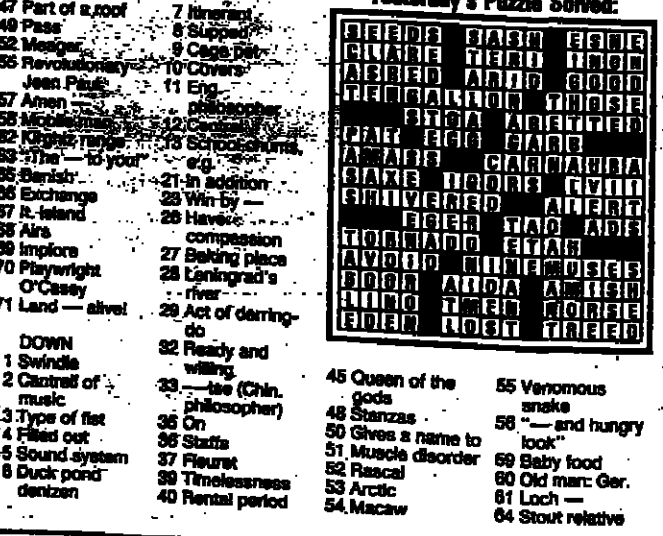
Declarer won the opening trump lead in hand and continued with a spade to the queen to learn the bad news. After coming to hand with the ace of diamonds, declarer returned a diamond and the jack was finessed successfully. Next came a low diamond and, when East discarded a heart, declarer ruffed low.

After cashing the ace of hearts and ruffing the queen on the board, declarer led the king of diamonds, and East was helpless. If the defender ruffed, declarer would discard a club, win any return, draw the last trump and discard the remaining club loser on the long diamond. If East did not ruff, declarer would simply play the other diamond and discard the other club loser. Either way, the defenders could not get more than one trump trick.

THE Daily Crossword by Roger Coburn



Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:



Financial Markets

In cooperation with
Cairo Amman Bank

Currency	NEW YORK CLOSE 11/11/92	TOKYO CLOSE 11/11/92
Sterling Pound	1.9275	1.9255
Deutsche Mark	1.4670	1.4680
Swiss Franc	1.5198	1.5208
French Franc	2.5685	2.5700
Japanese Yen	127.97	127.87
European Currency Unit	1.3690	1.3655

For the week
* European Opening for the week, GMT

European Currency Unit

Currency	1 UNIT	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. Dollar	3.31	3.31	3.37	3.56
Sterling Pound	9.93	10.12	10.12	10.31
Deutsche Mark	9.68	9.75	9.81	9.81
Swiss Franc	8.06	8.25	8.29	8.16
French Franc	9.93	10.12	10.18	10.25
Japanese Yen	4.00	3.87	3.82	3.62
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Source: Bank of America, New York, 11/11/92, 11/11/92, 11/11/92, 11/11/92

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AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

HOUSING BANK CENTER - AMMAN - JORDAN
TELEPHONE: 660170 / 660170
OPENING HOURS: 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM FOR MONDAY 12/08/1992

COUNTRY'S NAME	TRADING VOLUME	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
JORDAN EXCHANGE BANK	4,855	2,860	2,850	2,860
JORDAN EXCHANGE BANK	107,828	2,070	2,070	2,080
JORDAN EXCHANGE BANK	14,088	2,560	2,560	2,560
JORDAN EXCHANGE BANK	22,010	2,140	2,130	2,130
UNION BANK FOR SAVINGS & INVESTMENT	116	2,300	2,320	2,320
ARAB BANKING CORPORATION/JORDAN	27,923	2,170	2,180	2,230
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	2,965	3,000	2,970	2,960
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	4,523	2,260	2,260	2,260
ARAB BANK FOR INVESTMENT/OLD	229,706	1,300	1,210	1,210
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	283,847	1,170	1,160	1,230
NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS	856,894	2,360	2,300	2,430
WEST ELKAM NATIONAL INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	280,393	4,240	4,230	4,450
JORDAN FOREIGN INSURANCE	314,258	2,740	2,800	2,800
ARABIAN LIFE INSURANCE	12,000	1,500	1,500	1,500
UNIVERSAL INSURANCE	162	1,350	1,340	1,360
ARAB LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	5,040	2,320	2,300	2,300
PHILADELPHIA INSURANCE	380	3,790	3,800	3,800
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	4,530	1,270	1,270	1,280
ARAB INTERNATIONAL HOTELS	54,253	4,750	4,770	4,770
LIVERPOOL & LONDON	36,993	1,340	1,370	1,390
THIRD INTERNATIONAL ELECTRICITY	3,620	0,760	0,680	0,680
UNITED HILTON EAST & OVERSEAS HOTELS	86,610	1,670	1,660	1,690
JORDAN MEDICAL CORPORATION	19,315	0,250	0,250	0,260
WAGSTON EQUIP., REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE	980	1,000	1,000	1,000
PERNA INDUSTRIES & EQUIPMENT LEASING	24,460	0,970	0,970	0,970
JORDAN KEMAL CO. FOR AGRI. & FOOD PROD.	2,588	1,140	1,140	1,140
ARAB PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING	8,234	1,500	1,500	1,500
AL-SABIR	15,765	2,450	2,450	2,450
ARAB ALUMINUM INDUSTRY	79,296	2,700	2,760	2,760
ARAB WOODPULPING MANUFACTURING	13,756	3,980	4,060	4,040
THE INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	12,475	5,830	5,790	5,860
ARAB CHEMICALS DISTRICTS INDUSTRIES	1,063	21,500	21,250	21,250
NATIONAL STEEL INDUSTRY	787,258	4,990	5,000	5,260
EXPERIMENTAL PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	18,919	3,620	3,630	3,640
THE JORDAN WOODEN MILLS	8,620	9,150	9,910	9,910
JORDAN CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	30,167	4,700	4,700	4,800
JORDAN GLASS INDUSTRIES	723	0,740	0,720	0,720
JORDAN PROGRAMME NEWS	17,827	3,680	3,600	3,550
THE JORDAN PAPER MANUFACTURING	13,149	2,700	2,610	2,700
ARAB CHEMIS FOR PHARM. & CHEMICALS	502,382	3,160	3,170	3,200
NATIONAL INDUSTRIES	290	0,580	0,580	0,580
JORDAN CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	4,040	4,100	4,080	4,080
UNIVERSAL CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	19,292	12,850	12,850	13,940
ALADON INDUSTRIES	3,790	3,790	3,790	3,790
BAVIN INDUSTRIES	13,143	3,600	3,600	3,600
JORDAN INDUSTRIES & MACH/INCO	3,908	1,090	1,110	1,110
SHUBRAH & SHUBRAH	4,805	2,990	2,990	2,990
JORDAN WOOD INDUSTRIES & JUTED	7,625	2,500	2,500	2,500
JOYCEWILL, CABLE & WIRE MANUFACTURING	20,320	6,050	6,060	6,200
JORDAN SULPHO-CHEMICALS	514,468	2,730	2,710	2,800
THE JORDAN CHEST FACTORIES	55,307	1,270	1,270	1,280
JORDAN SOCCOHOIL INDUSTRIES	805	1,690	1,610	1,610
JORDAN PRECAST CONCRETE INDUSTRY	10,243	0,980	0,970	0,950
UNIVERSAL MORDENT INDUSTRIES	214,874	4,950	5,020	4,940
ARAB INVESTMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE	88,388	2,170	2,170	2,170
GRAND TOTAL	4,327,579			

On eve of U.N. vote, Serbs allow women, children out of Sarajevo

SARAJEVO (AP) — With the United Nations about to vote on using force to ensure aid gets to besieged supporters of Bosnia's government, Serb military leaders are suddenly making conciliatory gestures.

There is no indication, however, that Serbian forces intend to ease up on their campaign of driving out majority Muslims and Croats through what has become known as "ethnic cleansing."

United Nations officials reported Tuesday that 28,000 people, mostly ethnic Muslims, were being forced from their homes in northwestern Bosnia in the largest such operation of the 5-month-old civil war.

At the same time, the Serbs besieging Sarajevo announced that they would guarantee mothers and children safe passage out of the capital. More than 300 women and children gathered Wednesday under the echo of sniper fire to be evacuated.

Ibro Melic, 49, said goodbye to his 5-year-old Adnan as a manifest of those who were to board the buses was read.

"He is going to Vienna and I'm going to the front line," said Mr. Melic. "This could be the last time I see him."

"I don't really want to go because my father is wounded," said 9-year-old Muamer Vates, a refugee from eastern Bosnia like many of the others waiting for evacuation. "But I can't take the whistling of bullets in my ears."

Muamer and his family had been living in the basement of a house belonging to Halima Podric.

"Living underground sucks the souls out of these kids," Ms. Podric said. "It is almost worse than death."

Five buses were to leave Sarajevo Wednesday under the protection of U.N. armoured personnel carriers, said Ejub Cehic, an official with the private aid group Children's Embassy. Three of the buses were to travel to Austria and the other two were to go to Croatia.

Sarajevo came under heavy shelling overnight from Serb positions around the capital. One shell struck in front of Bosnia Defence Headquarters late Tuesday, wounding three people, officials said.

Earlier Tuesday, the self-styled parliament of the republic that Serbs have proclaimed inside Bosnia pledged not to impede humanitarian convoys and to open detention camps for inspection.

International outrage has mounted in recent weeks as the world was exposed to images of toddlers killed trying to flee Sarajevo and the emaciated inmates in Serb-run detention camps, where torture and executions are allegedly common.

But Western powers are reluctant to commit military forces in seeking an end to end a war rooted in complicated, centuries-old ethnic rivalries and being

fought in rugged, forested terrain ideal with guerrilla tactics.

As the U.N. Security Council prepared to vote Thursday on the force authorisation, Western military leaders cautioned that any attempt to force an end to fighting would require hundreds of thousands of troops.

NATO contingency plans call for at least 5,000 to 10,000 soldiers to open a land corridor to the capital to truck in food and medicine. But some military experts say far more would be required.

During a Senate hearing in Washington Tuesday, a representative of the joint chiefs of staff, Lt. Gen. Barry R. MacAffrey, said 60,000 to 120,000 troops would be needed to ensure the delivery of aid.

And he said 400,000 troops would be needed if the West decided to try to force an uneasy peace — an alternative he counselled against.

Maj. Gen. Lewis MacKenzie of Canada, who led the U.N. peacekeeping force in Sarajevo for five months, told the hearing that international military intervention would only "escalate the fighting and more people will be killed."

Nevertheless, the Senate followed the House in backing the U.N. proposal.

The bus trip was made possible under an agreement Tuesday between a Serb officer and a representative of Children's Embassy.

The arrangement could eventually provide safe passage to tens of thousands of the city's 400,000 residents.

U.N. forces were to escort the convoy. A week ago, two of 50 children being evacuated by the group were shot and killed, and nine other children were removed from a bus by Serb forces.

In its statement promising to cooperate with the United Nations, the self-styled Serb parliament asked for U.N. guidance on what steps were needed to "avoid military intervention and the bloodshed that would accompany it."

Calls against military intervention also came from the government of Yugoslavia, now made up only of Serbia and Montenegro.

The United Nations has already imposed sanctions on Serbia for backing Serb combatants in Bosnia.

The threat of force appeared to be discouraging Serb fighters from blocking aid to Bosnia, at least for the moment. In Geneva, Sylvania Foa, spokeswoman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, said overland deliveries by U.N. convoys were suddenly becoming easier.

The report on the latest "ethnic cleansing" operation came from the U.N. officials in Zagreb, Croatia.

Lars Nielsen, a field coordinator for the U.N. refugee agency, said the operation was taking



Bosnian refugee children wait in a sports hall in Karlovac, Croatia, to be taken elsewhere in Europe.

place in four towns in the so-called Bihac enclave, a mostly Muslim area in northwest Bosnia that is surrounded by Serbs.

In another development, a human rights group based in Germany accused Serbs of executing

and torturing civilians in prison camps in northern Bosnia.

The International Society for Human Rights said "thousands may have been killed in camps in Prijedor and Foca, where executions are occurring on a daily basis."

S. African democracy process gathers pace

JOHANNESBURG (R) — The South African government has had an unprecedented meeting with the black militant Pan-Africanist Congress (PAC), adding impetus to the process of transition to multi-racial democracy.

Both sides said the late-night session between four members of the government and senior PAC officials, the first official high-level meeting of its kind inside South Africa, was a promising step in widening dialogue on the country's future.

"It went well. We would say there are general points of agreement — that we should democratise the country," PAC Foreign Affairs Director Gora Ebrahim told Reuters.

After the meeting at a Johannesburg airport hotel ended early Wednesday Constitutional Affairs Minister Rosh Meyer told reporters there was more common ground than dissension and another round was planned for Aug. 18 in Pretoria.

The government had contacts in Nigeria earlier this year with the PAC, which has refused to take part in 19-party talks begun last December on a multi-racial constitution.

"The meeting effectively eased the PAC's entry into the negotiations process," the Star newspaper said in a commentary. Ebrahim said the PAC still saw the multi-party negotiating forum as undemocratic and there could be no progress without an elected constituent assembly to map out the path to democracy. But the PAC was willing to speak to the "white regime".

"This was not a meeting to rope us into that negotiating forum. But we are open to negotiating modalities," he said.

The PAC, a Socialist movement which demands white settlers restore to blacks the land they have taken over the past 300 years, walked out of preliminary talks on Democracy last November, shattering a shaky alliance with Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC).

The power-sharing talks, known as the Convention for a Democratic South Africa (CODESA), founded in May when the ANC and the government reached deadlock on constitutional proposals.

Mr. Mandela withdrew from CODESA after at least 43 blacks were massacred on June 17 at Boipatong. He accused President F.W. de Klerk of bad faith and condoning township violence.

COLUMN 8

Police probe prince's role in hockey game fight

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — Police are investigating allegations that a hockey-playing Malaysian prince knocked the goalkeeper of a rival team unconscious after losing a match. A police spokesman said Mohammad Selvaraja Mohammad Vello filed a complaint claiming he was beaten up by Tunku Majid Idris, the second son of the Sultan of Johor, in the town of Johor Bahru last month. Mohammad Selvaraja was playing for the northern state of Perak in the Malaysia Games hockey finals against Johor, led by Tunku Majid. Local newspapers reported that Tunku Majid slapped and kicked Mohammad Selvaraja until he was unconscious after the match, which Perak won. Malaysia's deputy inspector-general of police, Abdul Rahim Mohammad Noor, told reporters police were investigating the alleged incident and would report to the attorney-general, the government's top lawyer. A Malaysian Hockey Federation official said Tunku Majid would be banned from future matches if found guilty.

Man drives car into Parliament House

CANBERRA (AP) — A man crashed his four-wheel-drive vehicle through parliament's main entrance Wednesday, triggering a security alert and evacuation. Senate President Kerry Sibraa told the Associated Press that police found a loaded 12-gauge sawn-off shotgun and ammunition in the Mitsubishi Pajero. Witnesses said the vehicle damaged a front glass door as it sped across the building's crowded lobby. It continued for another 60 metres, ending hundreds of tourists, students and office workers scurrying before coming to a screeching halt in the building's marble-clad great hall, used for banquets and receptions. The male driver, 58, from the outback city of Broken Hill, 700 kilometres (435 miles) to the northwest of Canberra, surrendered peacefully to security guards. No one was hurt.

Boy plays for a week while mother dies on floor

LONDON (R) — A 12-year-old London schoolboy left his mother dying on the floor for a week while telling neighbours she was "out" and relishing his newfound freedom. This is a totally bizarre story, coroner Dr. John Burton said ruling that the 45-year-old woman, who was not named, died of natural causes. Doctors said she suffered a stroke. Dr. Burton said she "would have died anyway" but that she had lain unattended in her house for a week before suspicious neighbours ignored the son's claims that she was "just up the road" and burst into the house in Acton, West London. The boy told one friend who noticed the body that it was a blow-up dummy his father had bought from America. The boy used the time to invite friends to his home and give them money to buy them gifts and toys, the inquest was told.

Actor Glenn Ford released from hospital

LOS ANGELES (R) — Veteran actor Glenn Ford, who has battled back from several life-threatening illnesses in recent months, was released from a Los Angeles hospital, a hospital spokesman said. Ford, 76, left Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in good condition and returned to his Beverly Hills home to continue his recuperation, spokesman Ron Wise said. "His own will to pull through and state-of-the-art care led to his recovery," Mr. Wise said. Ford, who has appeared in more than 200 films, was near death in early July when surgeons removed large blood clots from his lower extremities. He underwent surgery again on July 9 to stop internal bleeding. In a career spanning five decades, Ford gained fame playing rugged, mild-mannered heroes and an occasional villain. He made his mark with tall-in-the-saddle roles in westerns and went on to become one of Hollywood's most enduring stars.

Goalkeeper makes save of his life

STEVENAGE, England (R) — An amateur football goalkeeper made the save of his life when he caught a two-year-old girl who fell 12 metres from a window of her parents' flat. Paul Edmonds, 28, was returning from a football game when he saw little Kayleigh hanging on to the window ledge by her fingertips and he sprinted to below the window just in time to catch her when she dropped. "It's a miracle. He's a hero to us."

Shevardnadze vows to fight rebels in Georgia

MOSCOW (R) — Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze Wednesday cast aside hopes of reconciliation with rebels who kidnapped his interior minister and said it is time to fight the "forces of evil," in Georgia.

Armed men broke into peace talks in the rebel western city of Zugdidi and snatched Interior Minister Roman Zentsadze, Mr. Shevardnadze's national security aide and five other officials, as well as the head of the Zugdidi administration.

Local journalists said Mr. Shevardnadze told a meeting of the ruling State Council Wednesday that the kidnappings were "terrorist banditism." Western Georgia is the centre of support for ousted former President Zviad Gamsakhurdia.

"I think that right now the question of 'to be or not to be,' whether good or evil will win out, will be resolved," he said earlier. "I will work with you and fight to overcome the forces of evil."

take all possible measures to restore order in the insurgent west and to release the hostages. Georgian police issued an ultimatum to the rebels, local radio said.

The police said they would free the hostages themselves, opening fire on anyone who got in the way, if all the captives were not released by 9 a.m. Thursday. Bitterly disappointed that a reconciliation plan he had announced Tuesday lay in tatters after the kidnapping, Mr. Shevardnadze said in a midnight address to the nation:

"Since I returned to Georgia, I have not used this word, but now I will say it for the first time — for us to declare 'battle' against our enemies, against the enemies and betrayers of Georgia. Support us in this."

Former Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze, who returned to run his native Georgia earlier this year, has made it a priority to reestablish order and moderation in a country riven by nationalist

and political passions.

"Do not take it as sentimentalism but this seems to me ... a defeat, my personal defeat, since I deceived myself. I did not assess realistically the forces fighting against Georgia," said Mr. Shevardnadze, once the republic's communist boss.

"Everywhere in Georgia we need the rule of law, and in everything. To achieve this we will use troops and police and military equipment. I warn everyone, everyone who has not yet banished evil thoughts from his head — think again before it's too late."

Mr. Gamsakhurdia was ousted and fled Georgia in January after a bloody siege by liberals in the capital, Tbilisi. He headed to the neighbouring Chechen Republic but later briefly returned to fight for power from his western base and was defeated.

In June, his supporters seized Tbilisi's television centre and announced Mr. Shevardnadze had been deposed. Government forces overwhelmed them within

hours.

Mr. Shevardnadze said he blamed himself for believing his Tuesday peace initiative could work, after the rebels had kidnapped deputy Prime Minister Alexander Kasavadze in western Georgia in early July. He has still not been set free.

"I was sincere when I offered the people the (reconciliation) manifesto. I saw in it a way out of the crisis the country is in."

"I knew (the rebels) were full of ill-will and capable of anything, but my understanding was that malice has its limits. Their malice seems to be limitless. That was my mistake."

He said he had offered to resign as head of the ruling State Council but his colleagues had refused the offer.

The State Council ruled Tuesday that armed guards would patrol freight and passenger trains in the west of the country, which have fallen victim to a crime wave netting robbers about nine billion roubles (\$56 million).

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

U.K. deports Yugoslav refugees

LONDON (AP) — Britain has deported 36 refugees from the former Yugoslavia to other Western countries, where they first sought asylum, the Home Office said Wednesday. The United Nations High Commission for Refugees called on Britain to stop the deportations. Since Jan. 24 refugees have been returned to Belgium, five to Germany, two to Italy, Austria and Turkey and one to the United States, said a spokeswoman at the Home Office, the cabinet department responsible for immigration issues. "The U.K., in the spirit of international burden-sharing, should refrain from third country removals," said UNHCR spokeswoman Nanda Na Champsak. Opposition lawmakers also demanded a halt to the policy of returning refugees to countries where they first sought asylum. A Home Office spokeswoman said under the European Community's Dublin Convention refugees must seek asylum only in the country where they first fled.

Vietnam urged to drop communism

HANOI (R) — Vietnamese intellectuals have been urging the ruling Communist Party to drop its Marxist ideology and allow greater freedom of expression, a prominent academic said Wednesday. Phan Dinh Dieu, the deputy head of the National Centre for Scientific Research, said he had urged the party chief, Do Muoi, to accept more political openness and drop irrelevant ideology. Mr. Dieu said that at one meeting with Mr. Do Muoi last year, the two of them spent more than three hours discussing his petition blaming socialism for ruining the economy. "I told Mr. Do Muoi: I hope you can transform the Communist Party from a party of dictatorship to a party of leadership in a democratic society," Mr. Dieu said. Mr. Dieu, a 55-year-old mathematician, said most members of the Communist Party no longer believed in communism. Intellectuals were now urging the party to recast itself as a patriotic or nationalist party, he said, adding that the present Communist Party was more popular than sister parties in the old Soviet bloc because of its original struggle against French colonialism.

CIA director ordered to testify

WASHINGTON (AP) — CIA Director Robert Gates must testify at former spy master Clair George's criminal trial because he is "up to his eyeballs" in knowledge about the Iran-contra affair, a federal judge ruled. U.S. District Judge Royce Lamberth denied a government bid to throw out a defence subpoena seeking Mr. Gates' testimony. The prosecution rested its case against Mr. George earlier in the day, and the defence presented its first witness. "There were only two people above Mr. George (at the CIA) and one of them is dead," Judge Lamberth said, referring to the late CIA Director William Casey. "What Mr. Gates knows or knew can be very critical to Mr. George's defence." Mr. Gates was deputy director of Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) during much of the time at issue in the case. Mr. George, the former No. 3 CIA official in charge of all overseas spy operations, is charged with lying and covering up his knowledge of the Iran-contra affair. Some witnesses have testified that Mr. Gates was involved in a number of discussions about the Reagan administration's secret arms sales to Iran in 1986.

15 die in China helicopter crash

PEKING (R) — Authorities revised the death toll in Tuesday's

helicopter crash in China to 15 after a Chinese stewardess previously counted as dead was found to be alive in hospital, the Japanese embassy said Wednesday. The helicopter was carrying 17 of the 20 staff members of a small Japanese building company, Toyo Kasei Kogyo, on a tour to the Great Wall. An embassy official said they were now sure that 15 people died in the crash — 10 Japanese and five Chinese. Eight Japanese and one Chinese escaped, some of them with serious injuries. In addition to the 17 Japanese tourists on board there was a Japanese tour agent and six Chinese, including the crew and the accompanying guide.

Perot: U.S. left POWs in Indochina

WASHINGTON (R) — Texas billionaire Ross Perot has told a Senate panel he was convinced the United States left some servicemen in Communist hands after the Vietnam War and that officials had tried to cover it up for two decades. In long-awaited testimony, Mr. Perot, who upset U.S. election-year politics before dropping a possible independent presidential run, blasted "federal employees who have covered up, dissembled and finessed this issue for 20-some-odd years. There is no question in my mind that we left people behind and we left people in Laos and I think I can prove it." Mr. Perot told the Select Committee on POW/MIA (Prisoner of War/Missing in Action) Affairs. Mr. Perot has been closely involved with the POW issue since 1969, when he made the first of several trips to South East Asia on behalf of U.S. prisoners. He made his last trip to Hanoi in 1987, after which he wrote to then-President Ronald Reagan that "the evidence that men were held in Laos is substantial."

Colombia offers \$1.4m for Escobar capture

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — The government Tuesday offered a reward of a billion pesos — more than \$1.4 million for help in finding fugitive cocaine baron Pablo Escobar. An intensive but so far fruitless manhunt is under way for Mr. Escobar, the billionaire head of the Medellin drug cartel. He, his brother Roberto and eight associates fled their luxurious, custom-made prison near Medellin on July 22. "We guarantee absolute secrecy regarding the identity of those who offer information," authorities promised in an advertisement delivered to newspapers for publication Wednesday. The ad carries a photograph of the mustachioed Escobar beneath, in huge letters, the phrase "se busca," or "wanted." It urged anyone with information on Mr. Escobar's whereabouts to telephone or write. It supplied a toll-free phone number and a post office box number. A billion-peso reward is sure to prove tempting in a country where the average blue-collar worker makes perhaps 150,000 pesos, or \$215, a month.

Ukraine, CIS command resume fleet war

KIEV (R) — Ukraine and Commonwealth navy commanders have traded accusations over the Black Sea Fleet, each side accusing the other of violating an agreement on how to divide up the 380-ship force. The sniping undermined the accord reached this month over one of the major irritants between Ukraine and Russia, the two most prominent members of the 11-nation Commonwealth. The Ukrainian Navy's press office accused, pro-Moscow fleet officers of "promoting the idea that the fleet is indivisible and subordinate to the joint Commonwealth Armed Forces Command."

French radioman shot in Cambodian helicopter attack

PHNOM PENH (R) — Four rifle shots fired from the jungle floor hit a U.N. helicopter flying over central Cambodia Tuesday night wounding the aircraft's French radioman.

The attack on the French Puma helicopter took place a few kilometres north of Siem Reap, a spokesman for the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) told reporters Wednesday.

The French airman suffered what was described as a moderate wound to the lower abdomen.

The helicopter was flying a resupply mission to a night training operation when it was hit.

U.N. officers have blamed such attacks in the past on Khmer Rouge guerrillas. The Khmer Rouge have balked at the disarmament phase of a peace plan they signed in Paris last October.

This was the eighth time an UNTAC helicopter has been hit by small-arms fire, but was the first time an UNTAC airman has been wounded in such an attack.

Information about the wounded airman's identity was not

made public.

Meanwhile, Japanese military officers dressed in business suits arrived in Cambodia Wednesday to plan the deployment of the first troops to be sent overseas by Tokyo since World War II.

"This time we came here to see how and where," Jiro Haji, an official of Japan's new International Peace Cooperation Office and head of the second planning delegation to visit Cambodia, told reporters at Phnom Penh's Ponchentong International Airport.

Japan is expected to send between 500 and 700 engineers to rebuild roads and bridges in a country wrecked by more than two decades of political turmoil and war.

They will join more than 15,000 soldiers from other nations already deployed under the banner of the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC).

Twenty-two military officers accompanied Mr. Haji's delegation, all but one stepping off the airliner from Bangkok in business suits.

Republicans ax tax 'mistake,' crush abortion-rights minority

HOUSTON (AP) — Conservative Republicans bowed to White House pressure and axed a section of the party platform that asserted the 1990 tax increase signed by President George Bush was a "mistake."

"Republicans believe that the taxes imposed by Democrats in the 1990 budget agreement were recessionary," the platform reads in its new form.

Rep. Vin Weber, a Minnesota Republican who sponsored the "mistake" language that had been adopted Monday, dismissed Tuesday's revisions as "one or two cosmetic changes that make some people feel better."

But the two-day flap illuminated the lasting political damage caused when Mr. Bush violated his 1988 campaign pledge of "no new taxes" and the anger it aroused among conservatives.

"This is no small matter," Mr. Weber said. "The 1990 tax increase is the biggest problem facing this president and the Republican Party."

Some believed the biggest problem facing the party is its uncompromising opposition to abortion. But the abortion-rights wing was crushed by a family values panel Monday and again Tuesday by the full 107-member Platform Committee that is finalising the party's 1992 statement of philosophy.

A move to excise all references to abortion — including support for a constitutional amendment that would ban it — was defeated 84-16 after an emotional debate.

"I hope that we can delete this from the platform so we can all work together. We are all Republicans. We are all for President Bush," said Vivian Petrus, the New Mexico delegate who sponsored the amendment.

But Howard Callaway of Colorado countered that "on this issue, politically, you must be consistent. You cannot move from one side to another."

Added Carol Wells of South Carolina: "If we give in on this, we might as well be Democrats."

Mr. Bush has said it was a mistake to sign the deficit-reduction agreement that raised taxes. Conservatives argued the initial phrasing of the tax amendment only repeated what Mr. Bush had said himself.

But Charles Black, a senior strategist for the Bush campaign, said the plank was "not quite in sync" with what the campaign had in mind. Though Mr. Weber insisted the "mistake" language was not aimed at the president, Mr. Black suggested it was a little too pointed.

"I have not heard other Republicans come out and say they made a mistake," he said dryly. The Bush campaign initially sent signals that the amendment was acceptable to them. But Mr. Black said Tuesday that he was not aware of its precise language ahead of time.

Meanwhile, President Bush said Tuesday he would offer love and support if one of his grandchildren were homosexual, but said he did not consider it "an appropriate lifestyle."

Mr. Bush was asked about late issue an interview broadcast on the television programme DateLine: NBC which also touched on the president's views on abortion.

Reporter Stone Phillips raised the question after noting that some considered the Bush campaign's emphasis on "family values" to be an indirect condemnation of other ways of life.

"Let me ask you this, if in a few years (a grandchild) came to you ... and said 'I'm gay?' Phillips asked.

"I'd put my arm around him and I would hope he didn't go out and try to convince people that this was the normal lifestyle, that this was an appropriate lifestyle, that this was the way it ought to be," Mr. Bush responded.

"But, you know, for me, I

think the Bible teaches compassion and love.

"... I would say, 'I hope you wouldn't become an advocate for a lifestyle that in my view is not normal and propose marriages of — same-sex marriages — as a normal way of life. I don't favour that.'"

President Bush Tuesday accused reporters of pursuing "prurient interests" with unfair questions about his possible sexual infidelities and threatened to halt an interview when the subject came up.

Mr. Bush said the media needed to discipline themselves. Earlier he responded angrily when asked by a Cable News Network reporter about allegations in a new book that he had an affair with an aide while he was vice president.

He also threatened to cut off an NBC interview broadcast in prime time when the subject was raised again.

"I don't think it's fair," Mr. Bush said in the interview at his white house office. "It perpetuates sleaze."

"After years of public service and a very happy marriage, I am hit by a wave of questions like yours," he told Stone Phillips who had asked if he "ever had an affair," prompting Mr. Bush to warn: "This interview might end."

"I'm not going to take any sleaze questions," Mr. Bush replied. "I gave you a little warning. You see, you're perpetuating the sleaze by even asking the question, to say nothing of asking it in the Oval Office, and I don't think you ought to do that and I'm not going to answer the question."

"I should think you'd be a little ashamed of yourself because ... it just brings down the political process," said Mr. Bush, who described the motivation of the question as "what they call prurient interest."